はなしっぱなし 下

五十嵐大介

DAISUKE IGARASHI

河出書房新社

九龍COMICS

はなしっぱなし 下

五十嵐大介

河出書房新社

9784309728414

1920379011003

ISBN978-4-309-72841-4
C0379 ¥1100E

定価 本体1100円(税別)

九龍COMICS

はなしっぱなし

下

五十嵐大介

河出書房新社

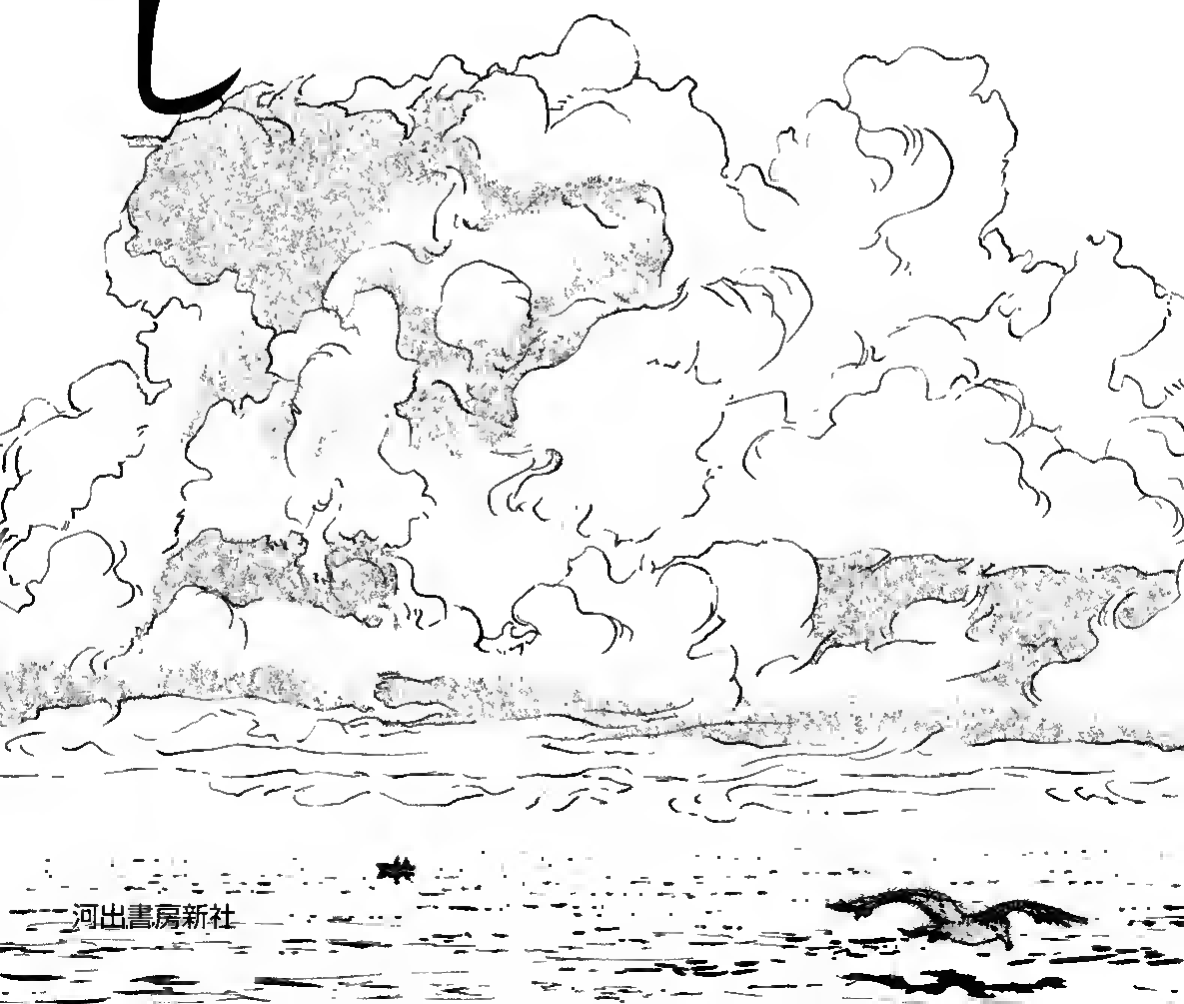
はなしっぱなし 下

五十嵐大介

DAISUKE IGARASHI

scanning GGpX
translator laika
edits illiteracy, kio, dh85
typesetting GGpX, eito, dh85, KF
quality check laika, dh85, GGpX, heaud

www.illuminati-manga.com
#illuminati-manga@irc.irchighway.net



河出書房新社

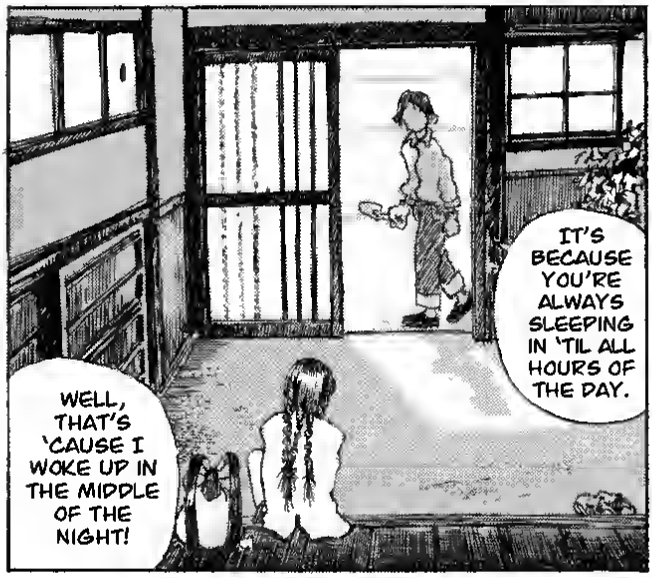
HANASHIPPANASHI
VOLUME 2

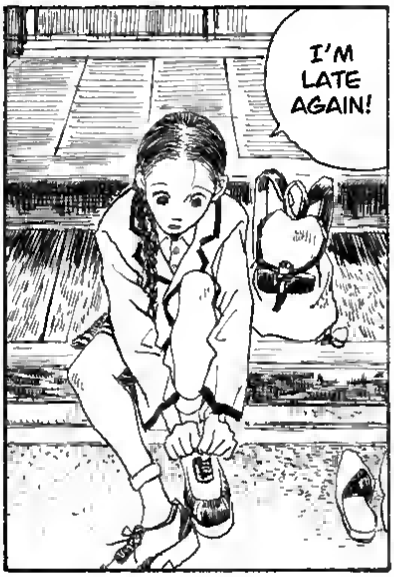
Table of Contents

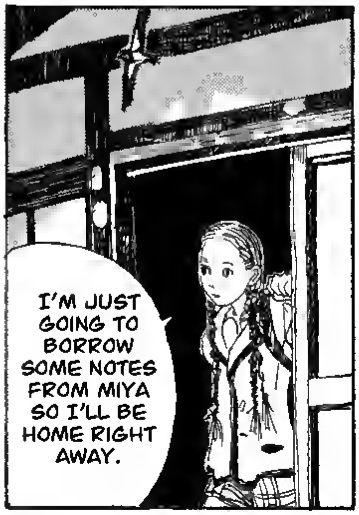
CHAPTER 24: The Airy Ones....004
CHAPTER 25: Falling Rain....013
CHAPTER 26: The Boundary Between Sea and Sky....029
CHAPTER 27: The Fierce Sun Beams on Top of the Roof...039
CHAPTER 28: Who's Hardest?....045
CHAPTER 29: The Emperor of Flame Rises....052
CHAPTER 30: Becoming the Wind....061
CHAPTER 31: Ascension of the Crimson Dragon....079
CHAPTER 32: The Landing of the Shadows....095
CHAPTER 33: The Speed of Birds....108
CHAPTER 34: Selling Bugs....113
CHAPTER 35: Wind Chime Detectives....121
CHAPTER 36: The Mandarin and the Ogre....129
CHAPTER 37: Carrying the Snow....138
CHAPTER 38: Snow Lantern....147
CHAPTER 39: Funeral Goers....163
CHAPTER 40: Erased Eraser....177
CHAPTER 41: False Spring....179
CHAPTER 42: The Flowers and the Wolves....197
CHAPTER 43: The Koi and the Heron....205
CHAPTER 44: Snail....221
CHAPTER 45: Lure....249

SOMETHING OF AN AFTERWORD....246

Chapter 24 THE AIRY ONES

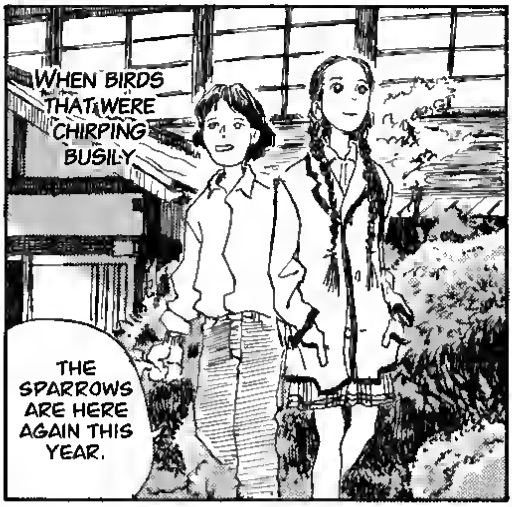


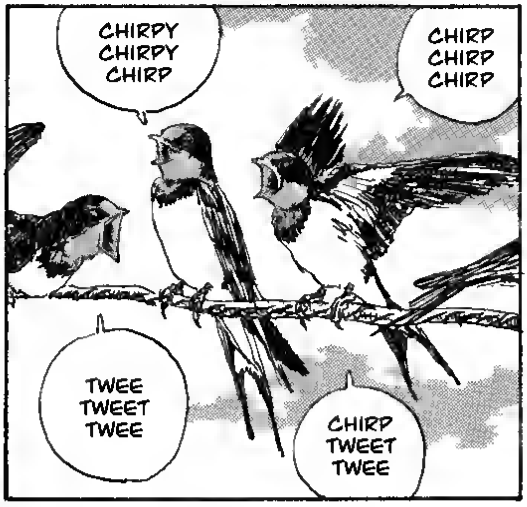




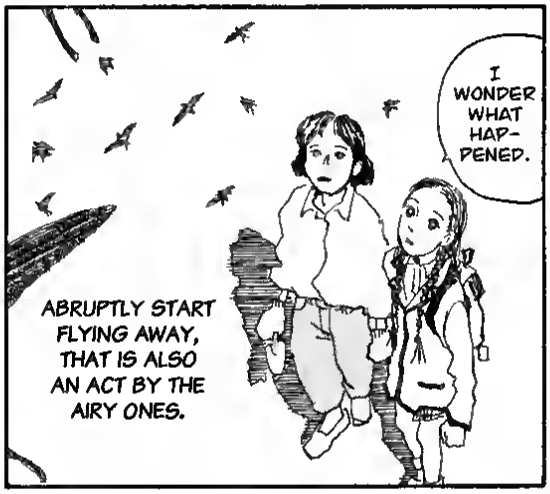
IN THE MIDDLE OF A PEACEFUL NIGHT, IT IS AN ACT BY THE AIRY ONES.

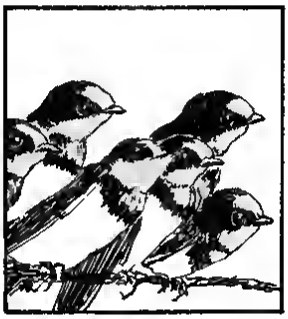
WHEN A LARGE CLANG SUDDENLY RINGS THROUGH THE STORM SHUTTERS


WHEN BIRDS THAT WERE CHIRPING BUSILY
THE SPARROWS ARE HERE AGAIN THIS YEAR.

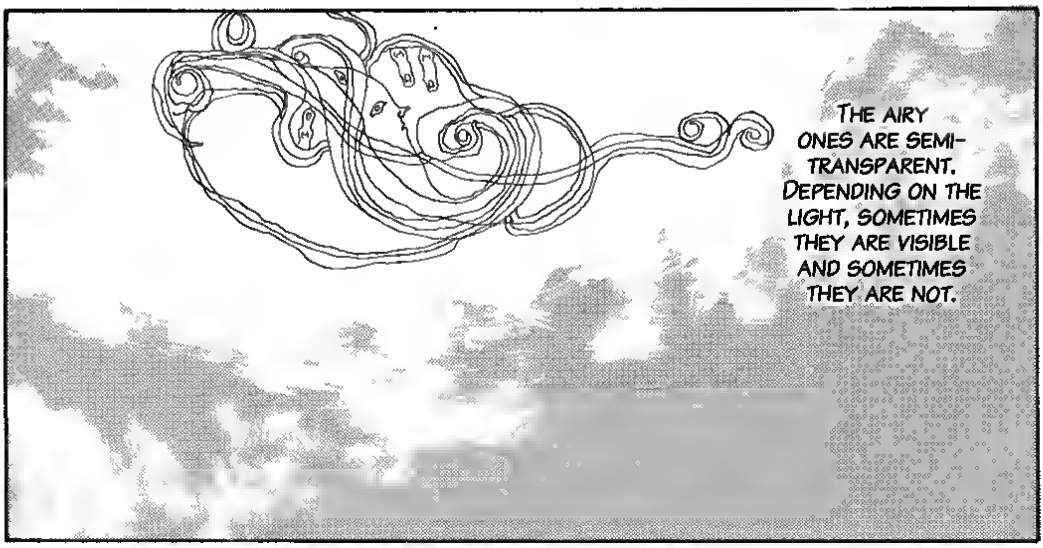

CHIRPY CHIRPY CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
TWEE TWEET TWEE
CHIRP TWEET TWEE

Oh no, I really gotta go

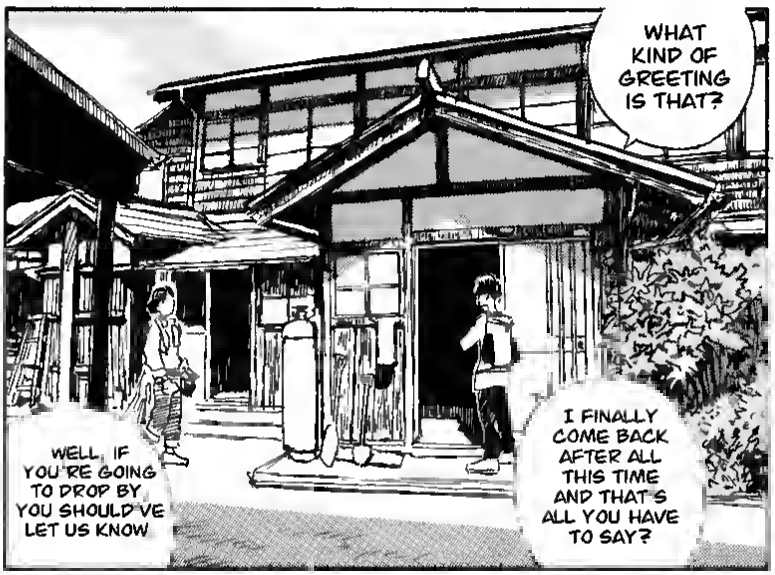

I WONDER WHAT HAP-PENED.
ABRUPTLY START FLYING AWAY, THAT IS ALSO AN ACT BY THE AIRY ONES.



FLAP

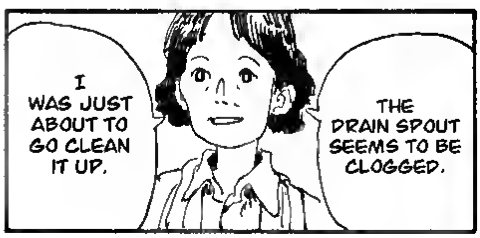

THE AIRY ONES ARE SEMI-TRANSPARENT. DEPENDING ON THE LIGHT, SOMETIMES THEY ARE VISIBLE AND SOMETIMES THEY ARE NOT.

HEY, I'M HOME!

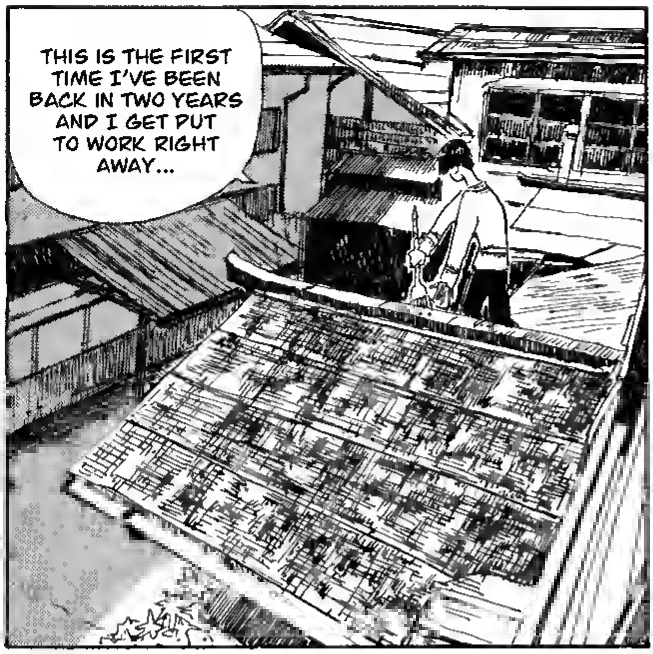

WHAT KIND OF GREETING IS THAT?
WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO DROP BY, YOU SHOULD'VE LET US KNOW.
I FINALLY COME BACK AFTER ALL THIS TIME AND THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?

WELL, NOW, THIS IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE BLUE.

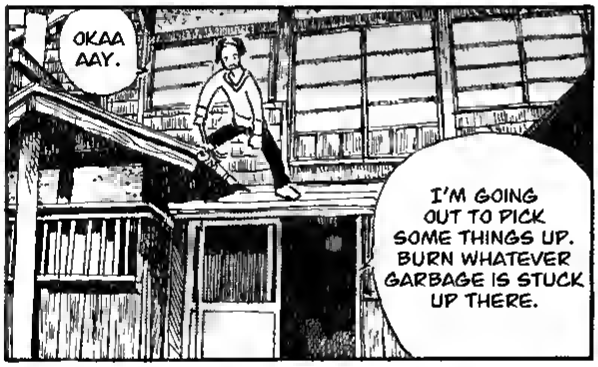
HM?
ガチャ CLANK
HERE, TAKE THIS.

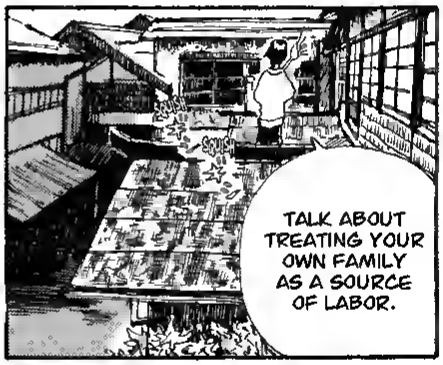

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO CLEAN IT UP.
THE DRAIN SPOUT SEEMS TO BE CLOGGED.

ANYWAYS, YOU'VE GOT GOOD TIMING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN BACK IN TWO YEARS AND I GET PUT TO WORK RIGHT AWAY...

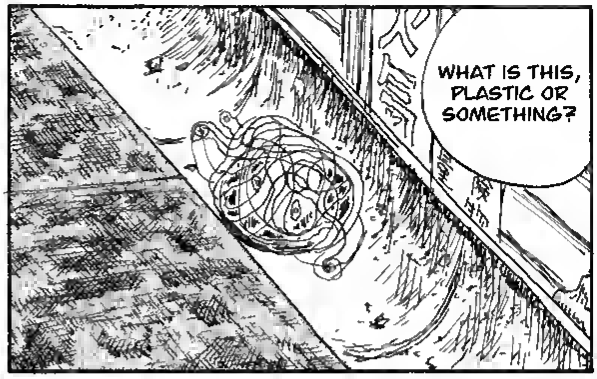
...JEEZ.

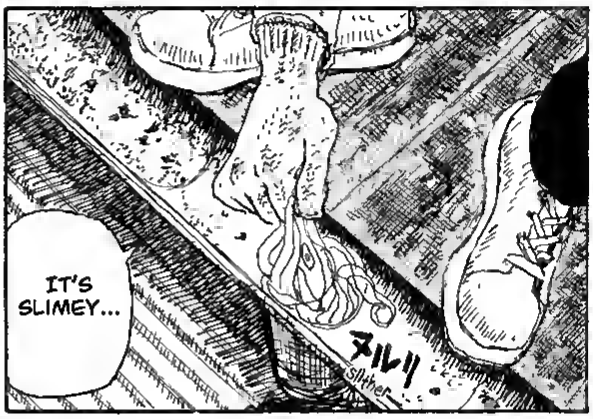

OKAA AAY.
I'M GOING OUT TO PICK SOME THINGS UP. BURN WHATEVER GARBAGE IS STUCK UP THERE.


TALK ABOUT TREATING YOUR OWN FAMILY AS A SOURCE OF LABOR.

OHHH, THIS MUST BE WHAT WAS CAUSING IT.

ズルズルブルッ
SLIP
SLIP


WHAT IS THIS, PLASTIC OR SOMETHING?


IT'S SLIMEY...
ヌルリ
slither

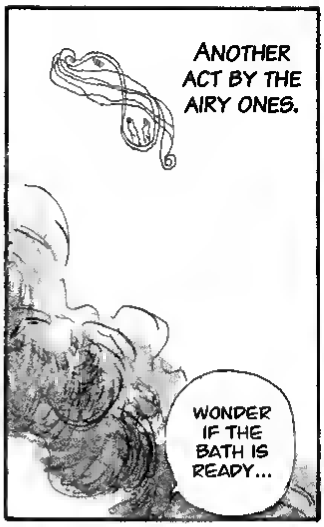
PLOP

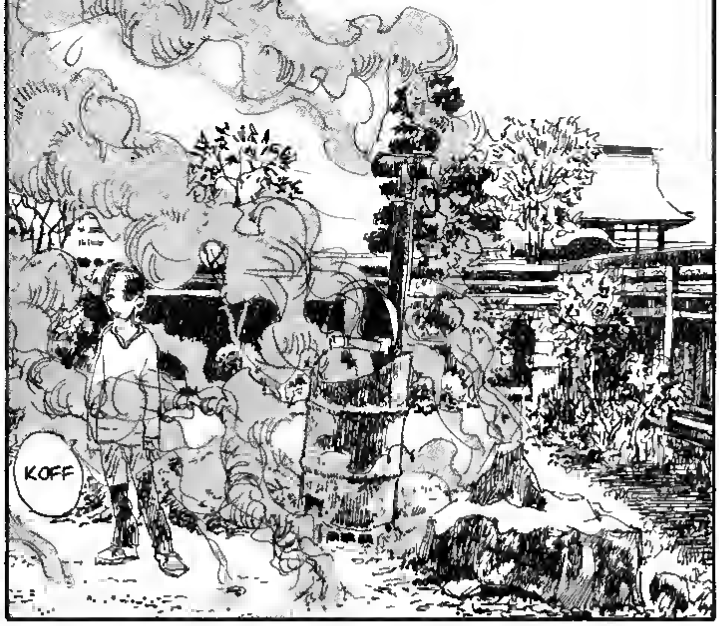
KyA

メラ
CRACKLE
メラ
CRACKLE
メラ
CRACKLE

アアア
AAA
アア
AAHH

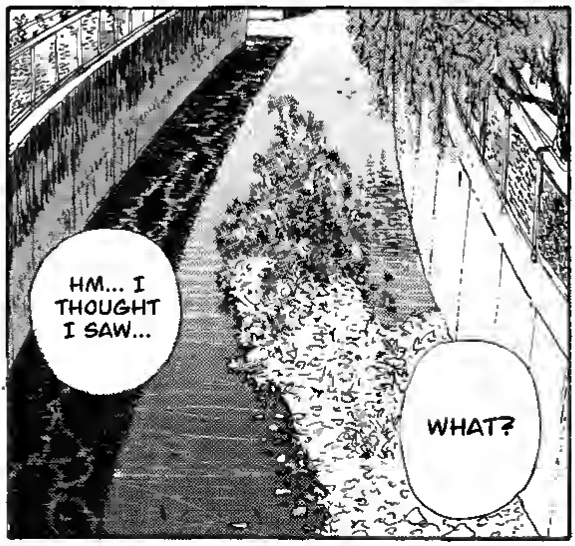
ド
BA
ズン
BOOM
WHOA.

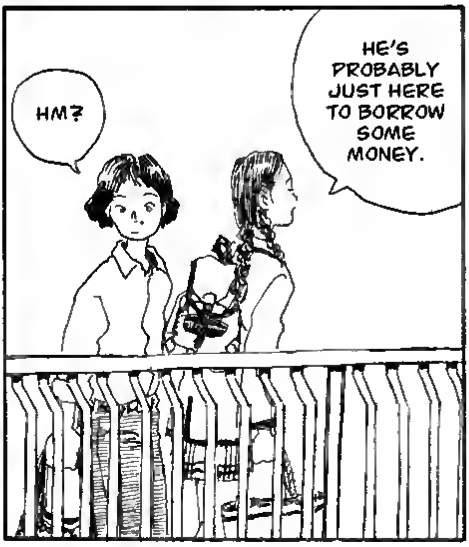

ANOTHER ACT BY THE AIRY ONES.
WONDER IF THE BATH IS READY...

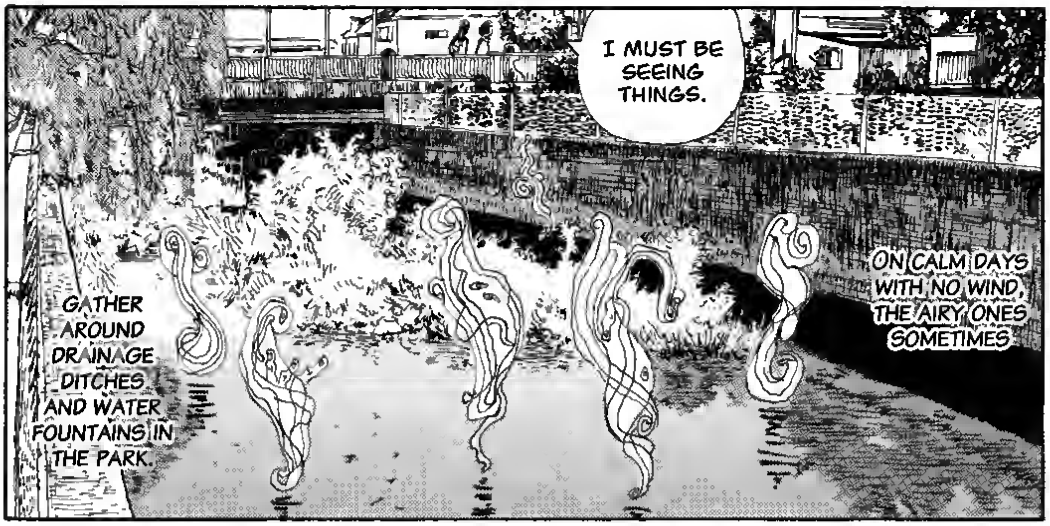

KOFF

HIRO'S BACK HOME.
NAH, I'M ABOUT TO HEAD BACK.
YOU STILL GOT SOME THINGS TO DO?
BRO IS?

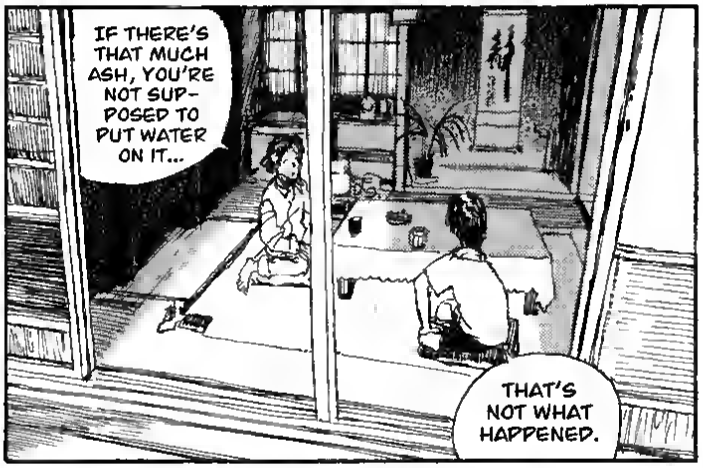
OH.
MOM!

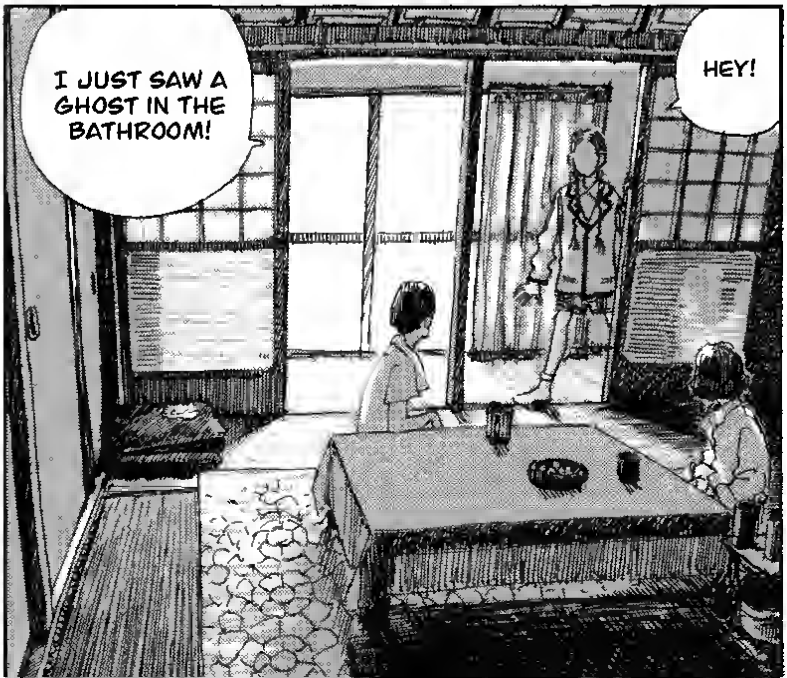

HM... I THOUGHT I SAW...
WHAT?


HM?
HE'S PROBABLY JUST HERE TO BORROW SOME MONEY.


I MUST BE SEEING THINGS.
GATHER AROUND DRAINAGE DITCHES AND WATER FOUNTAINS IN THE PARK.
ON CALM DAYS WITH NO WIND, THE AIRY ONES SOMETIMES

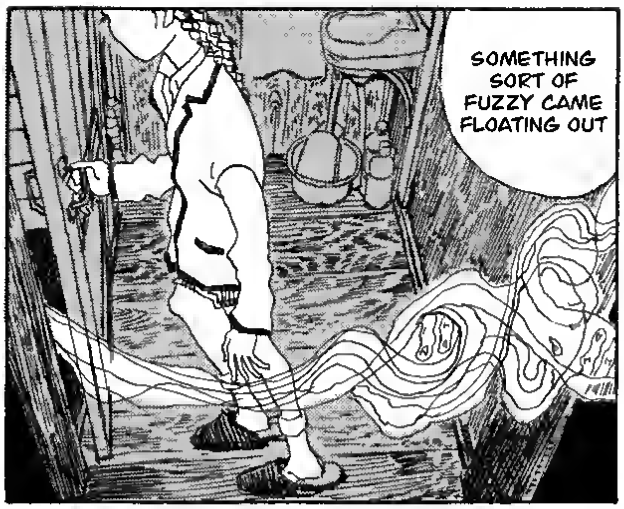
IT WAS JUST THE PIECE OF PLASTIC THAT WAS STUCK IN THE DRAIN SPOUT.

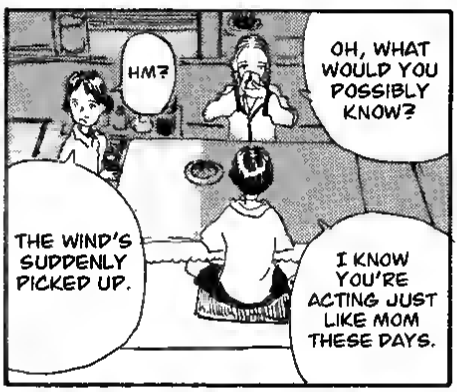

IF THERE'S THAT MUCH ASH, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PUT WATER ON IT...
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED.

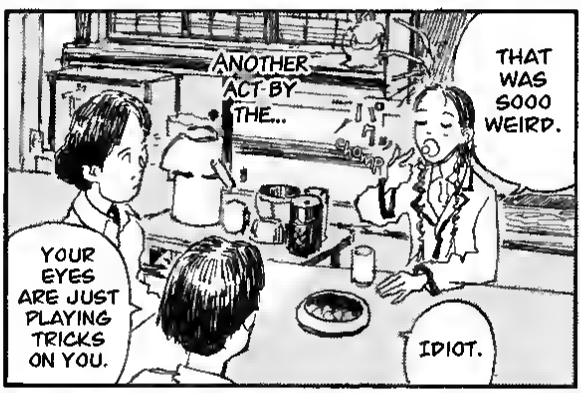

I JUST SAW A GHOST IN THE BATHROOM!
HEY!

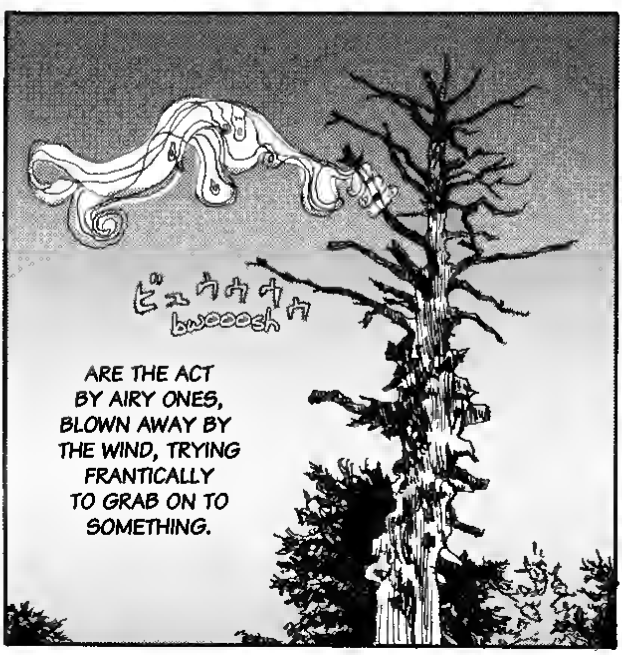
ドタ
ドタ
ドタ

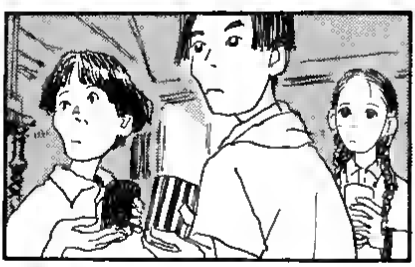
AND I SAW A FACE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT...

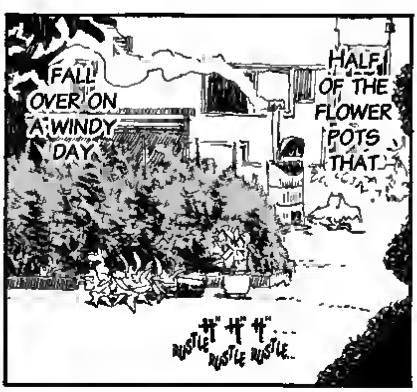

SOMETHING SORT OF FUZZY CAME FLOATING OUT


HM?
OH, WHAT WOULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW?
THE WIND'S SUDDENLY PICKED UP.
I KNOW YOU'RE ACTING JUST LIKE MOM THESE DAYS.


ANOTHER ACT BY THE...
THAT WAS SOOO WEIRD.
YOUR EYES ARE JUST PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU.
IDIOT.

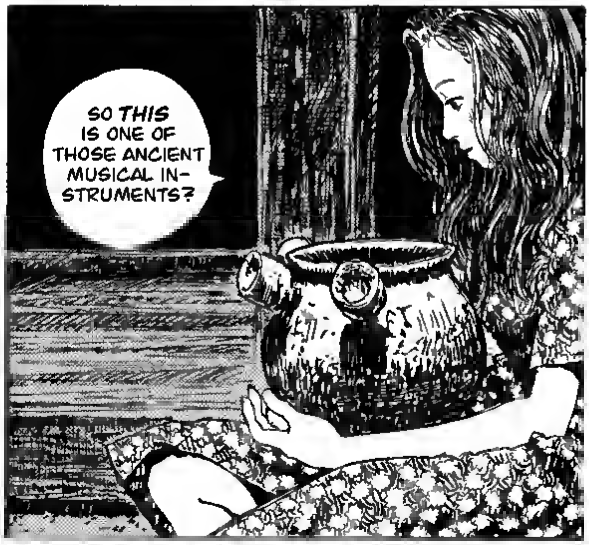

ビュウウウウ
bwoooosh
ARE THE ACT BY AIRY ONES, BLOWN AWAY BY THE WIND, TRYING FRANTICALLY TO GRAB ON TO SOMETHING.



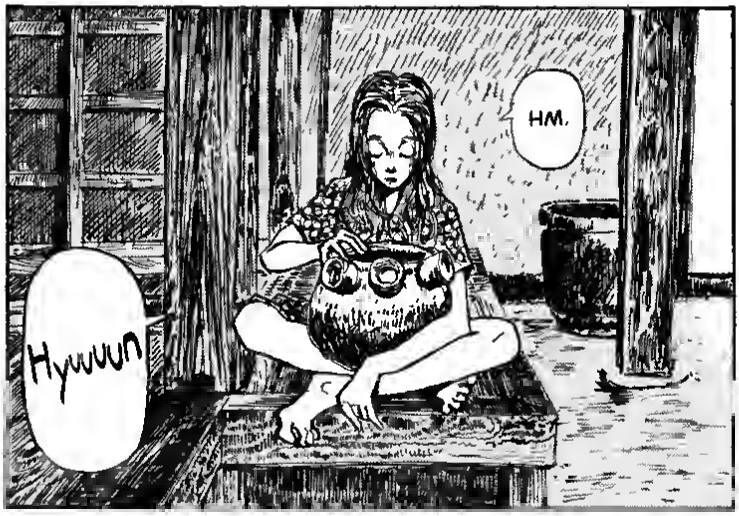

FALL OVER ON A WINDY DAY.
HALF OF THE FLOWER POTS THAT
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE...

Chapter 25

LIKE FALLING RAIN

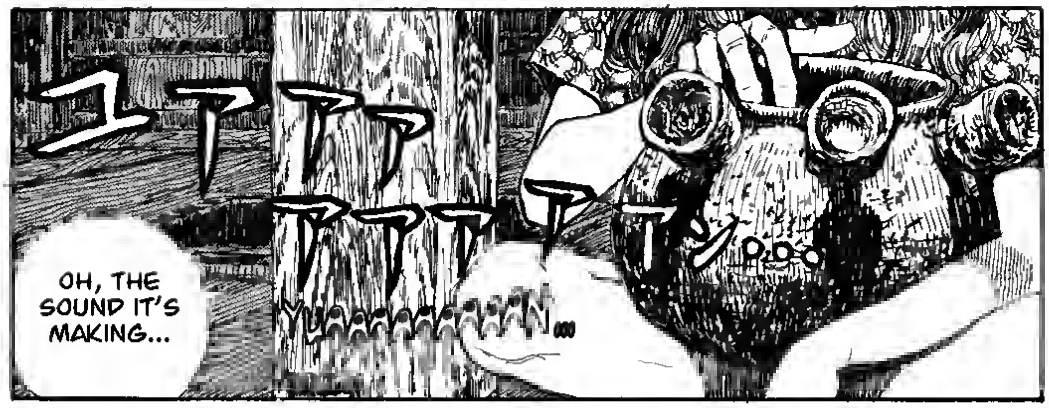


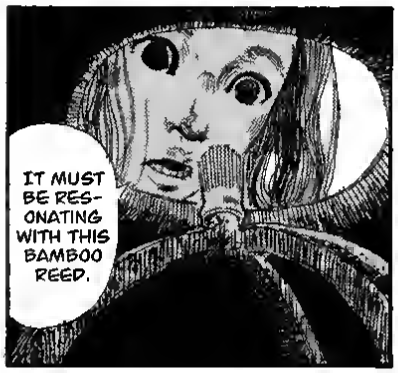
IT'S JUST A PROTOTYPE.
Twee
Kyuu
Kyuu
BRUSH THE LIP WITH SOME WATER ON YOUR FINGER TIP AND...


HM.
Hyuuuu

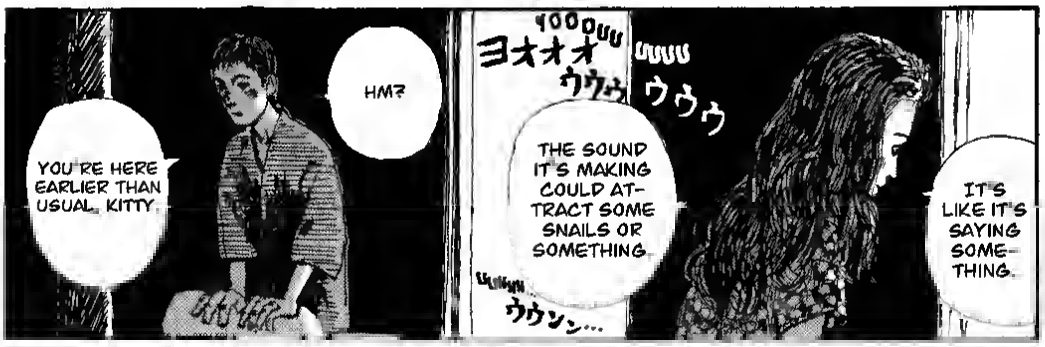
IF AT ALL.
LIKE YOU'RE BARELY TOUCH-ING IT,

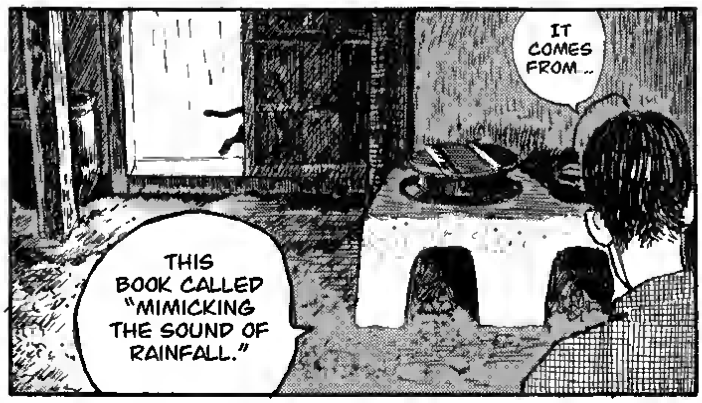
YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT.
OH, I SEE.
ヒュウウ
SO THAT MAKES IT REVERBERATE?
ウソ


OH, THE SOUND IT'S MAKING...

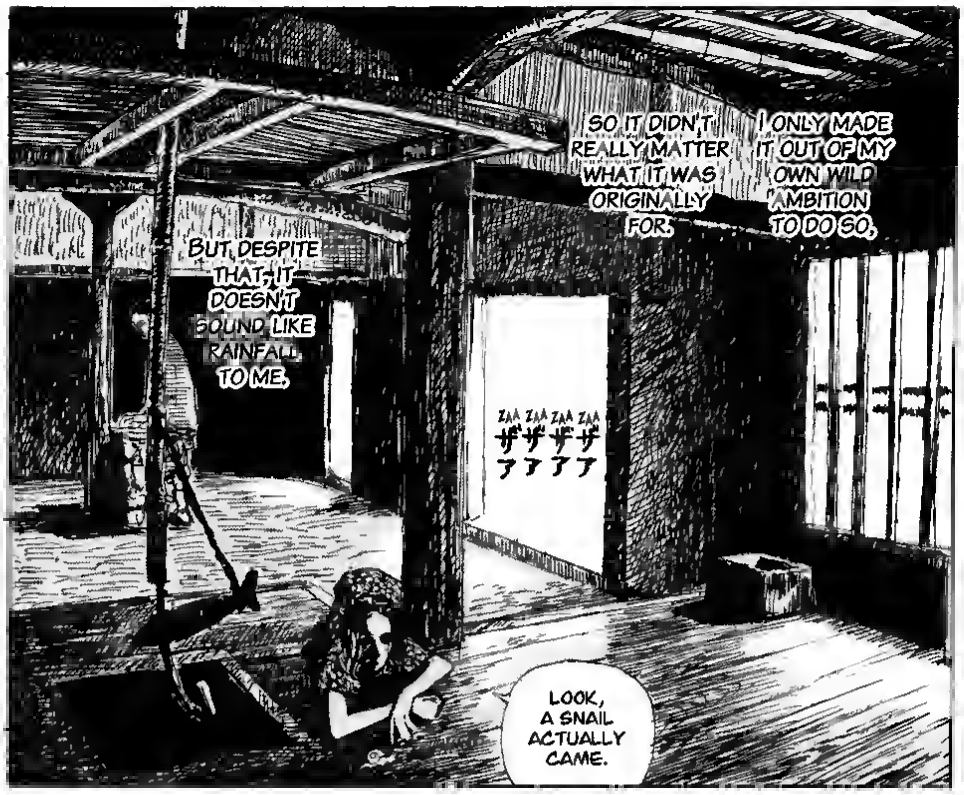

IT MUST BE RESONATING WITH THIS BAMBOO REED.

IT'S RINGING THROUGH MY STOMACH.

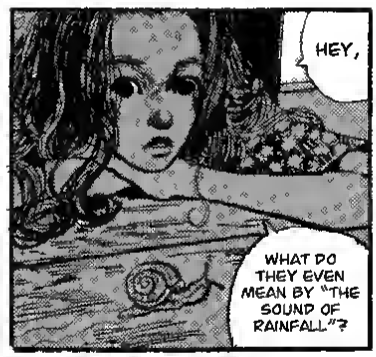

YOU'RE HERE EARLIER THAN USUAL, KITTY.
HM?
THE SOUND IT'S MAKING COULD ATTRACT SOME SNAILS OR SOMETHING.
IT'S LIKE IT'S SAYING SOMETHING.


IT COMES FROM...
THIS BOOK CALLED "MIMICKING THE SOUND OF RAINFALL."

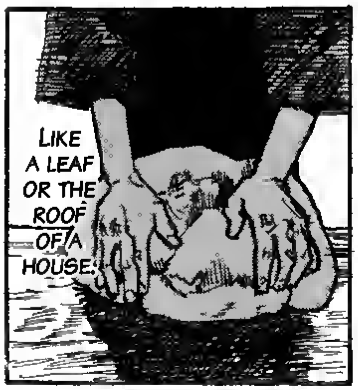
NYAO


BUT, DESPITE THAT, IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE RAINFALL TO ME.
SO IT DIDN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT IT WAS ORIGINALLY FOR.
I ONLY MADE IT OUT OF MY OWN WILD AMBITION TO DO SO.
ZAA ZAA ZAA ZAA
ザザザザ
アアアア
LOOK, A SNAIL ACTUALLY CAME.

THE SOUND OF RAIN-FALL...


HEY,
WHAT DO THEY EVEN MEAN BY "THE SOUND OF RAINFALL"?

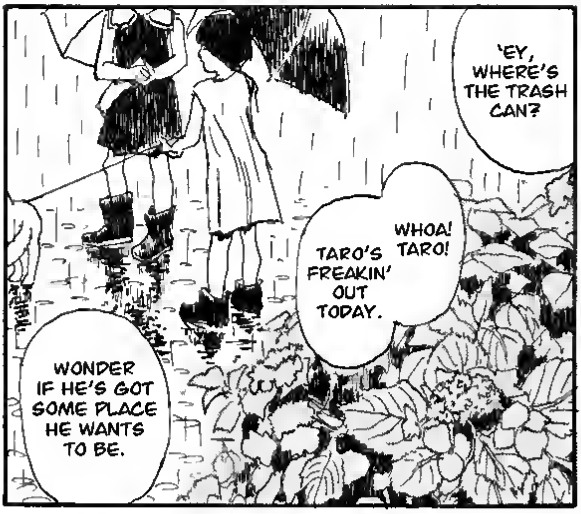
THEY WERE USING OLDER TYPES OF KILNS BACK THEN ANY-WAYS... WHAT PART OF IT IS SUPPOSED TO SOUND LIKE RAINFALL?
AND WITH THIS TYPE OF CON-STRUCTION, EVEN IF I CHANGE THE CLAY...


LIKE A LEAF OR THE ROOF OF A HOUSE.

WHEN THEY COME INTO CONTACT WITH SOME-THING, ISN'T IT?
IT'S THE SOUND THAT FALLING RAIN-DROPS MAKE
ザアアー

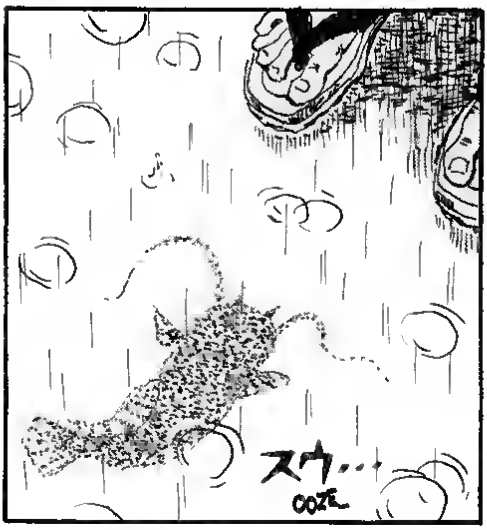
IS "THE SOUND OF RAINFALL" THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THIS PITTER-PATTER?

I'LL GO OUT IN THE RAIN FOR A BIT AND SEE.
I SEE... MAYBE.
THAT'S THEIR SOUND.
THE SOUND OF THE LEAVES AND THE STONES AND SUCH.
THE PITTER-PATTER ISN'T THE RAIN.
I WANT TWO HUNDRED WORDS ON YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE INSTRUMENT BY THE TIME I GET BACK.
ZAAAAAAAA
ザアアアアアア
THEY'RE USUALLY ALL OVAH THE PLACE THO'.
I GUESS THERE AIN'T ANY HERE.


'EY, WHERE'S THE TRASH CAN?
WHOA! TARO!
TARO'S FREAKIN' OUT TODAY.
WONDER IF HE'S GOT SOME PLACE HE WANTS TO BE.

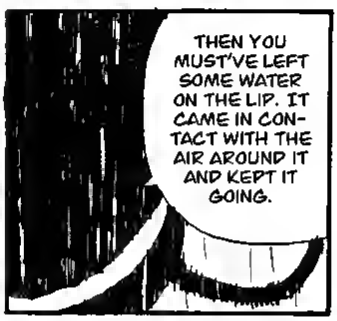
WHAT? PICKED UP A 'ZINE OR SOMETHIN'?
IT'S LIKE IN "THAT'S RIGHT!" WHEN THEY SAY WHEN YOU OPEN A JAPANESE BOOK IT'S LIKE IT'S RAINING 'CAUSE EVERY-THIN'S WRITTEN ALL VERTICAL

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, THIS STREET WAS STILL A RIVER.


スウ…
OOZE

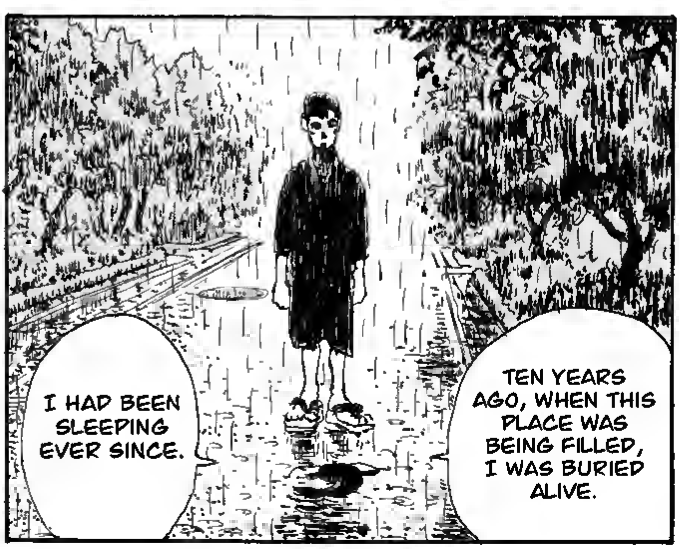
IT WAS WATER, NOT ASPHALT, THAT FLOWED THROUGH HERE.

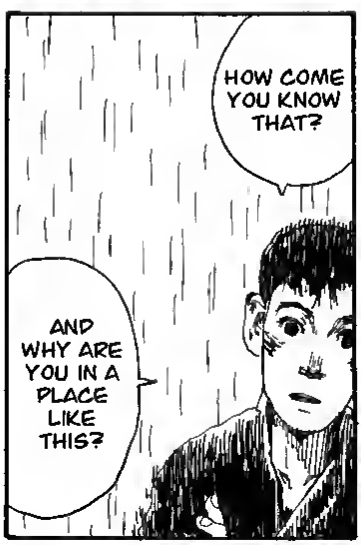
I DIDN'T PLAY IT ALL NIGHT LONG.
ALL I DID WAS JUST TRY IT OUT FOR A BIT YESTERDAY.


THEN YOU MUST'VE LEFT SOME WATER ON THE LIP. IT CAME IN CONTACT WITH THE AIR AROUND IT AND KEPT IT GOING.

YOU REEK OF IT.
YOU WERE PLAYING THAT INSTRUMENT ALL NIGHT LONG, WEREN'T YOU?
THAT SOUND.

AND I CAN FEEL SOMEONE PLAYING IT RIGHT NOW.
EVEN IF THE SOUND IS FAINT, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S RESOUNDING THROUGH ME.


I HAD BEEN SLEEPING EVER SINCE.
TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN THIS PLACE WAS BEING FILLED, I WAS BURIED ALIVE.


HOW COME YOU KNOW THAT?
AND WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

THE MEMORIES THAT HAD BEEN SHUT TIGHTLY AWAY.

THE MEMORIES OF WHEN IT WAS A RIVER, THE CONFOUNDED ROAD...

IT TOOK THEM BACK SO SUDDENLY.

BECAUSE OF THE CONSTANT RAIN, THIS DAMN ROAD...

THE VIBRATIONS OF THE RAINDROPS MUDDIED THE UNION.

AND THEN CAME THAT SOUND OF YOURS...

AND TREMBLED MOMENTARILY.

PERHAPS FEELING SOMETHING AWRY, IT SOUGHT TO TAKE BACK THE CURRENT FOR ITSELF

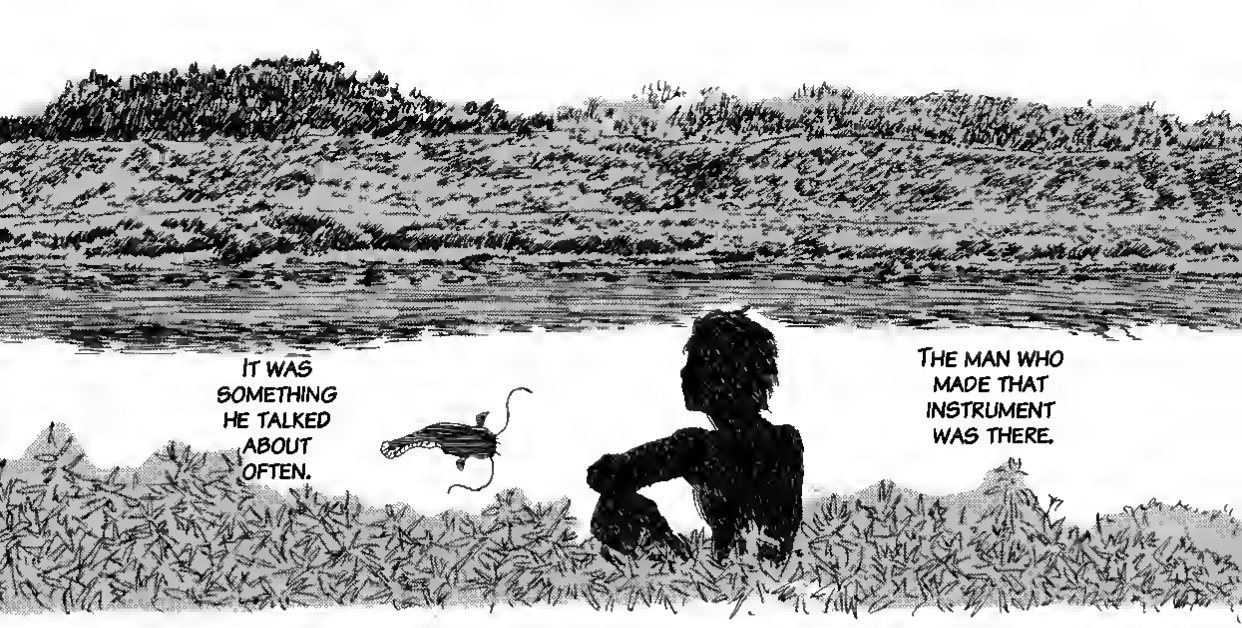
THE INSTRUMENT IS?

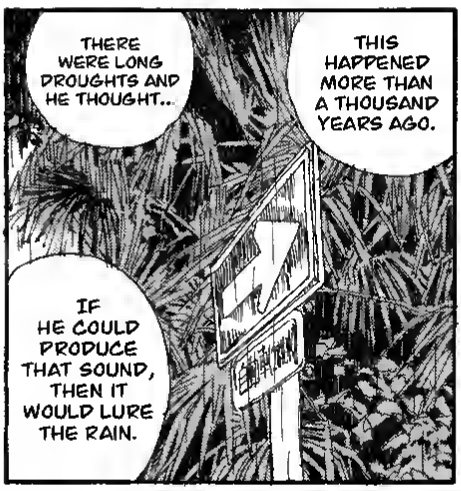
LONG, LONG AGO, WHEN THIS PLACE WAS STILL A RIVER...

IT WAS HOW I WAS AWOKEN AFTER TEN YEARS.

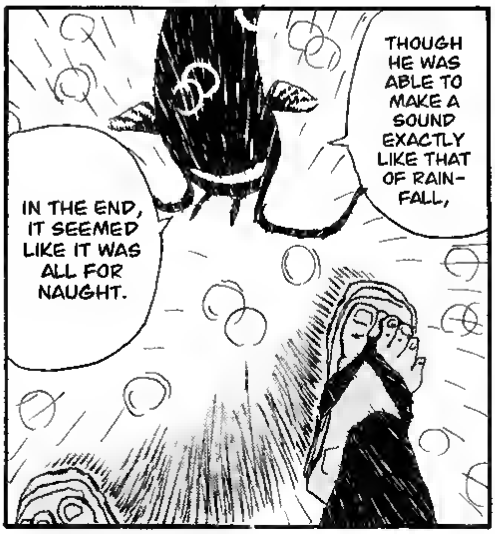
...AND IT'S STILL SOUNDING OUT.

THE VIBRATIONS WERE SO FAINT THAT NOT EVEN THE ANTS NOTICED, HOWEVER...

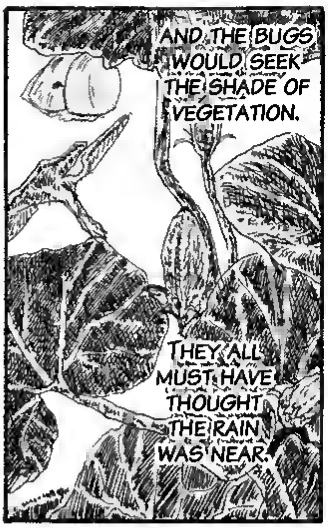

IT WAS SOMETHING HE TALKED ABOUT OFTEN.
THE MAN WHO MADE THAT INSTRUMENT WAS THERE.


THERE WERE LONG DROUGHTS AND HE THOUGHT..
THIS HAPPENED MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
IF HE COULD PRODUCE THAT SOUND, THEN IT WOULD LURE THE RAIN.

OH, YOU MEAN HE TALKED ABOUT MIMICKING THE SOUND OF RAINFALL?
THE SOUND OF RAINFALL? YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

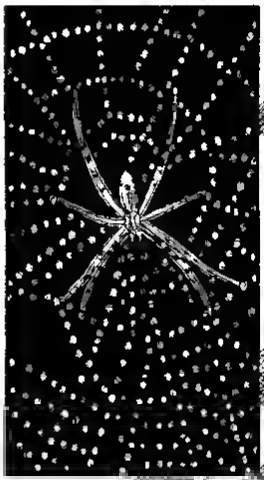

THOUGH HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE A SOUND EXACTLY LIKE THAT OF RAIN-FALL,
IN THE END, IT SEEMED LIKE IT WAS ALL FOR NAUGHT.

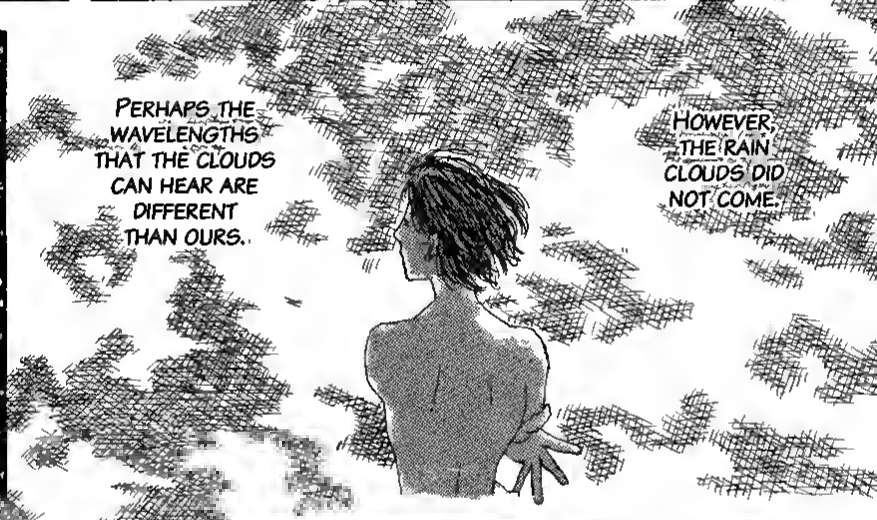
THAT THE RAIN DROPS MAKE WHEN THEY PIERCE THROUGH THE AIR, THEN..
IF HE COULD SUMMON THE RAIN CLOUDS WITH THE SOUND


AND THE BUGS WOULD SEEK THE SHADE OF VEGETATION.
THEY ALL MUST HAVE THOUGHT THE RAIN WAS NEAR.

THE BIRDS AND BEASTS WOULD GATHER,

WHEN HE PLAYED THE INSTRUMENT, THE PLANTS WOULD EXTEND THEIR ROOTS AND SPREAD THEIR LEAVES,



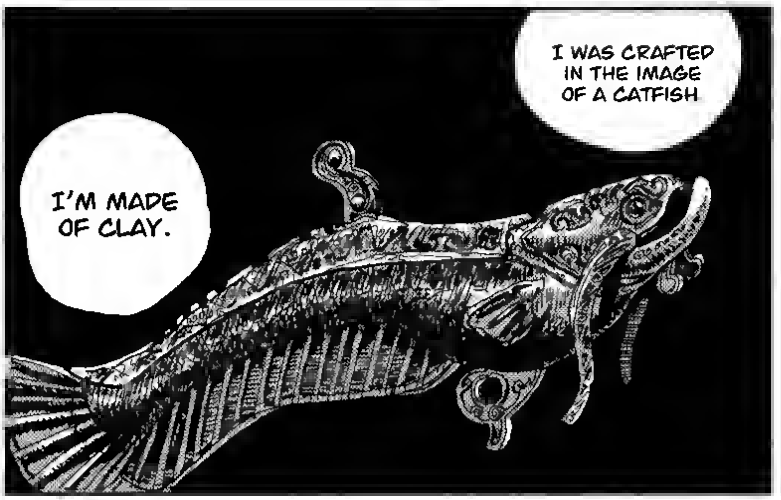

PERHAPS THE WAVELENGTHS THAT THE CLOUDS CAN HEAR ARE DIFFERENT THAN OURS..
HOWEVER, THE RAIN CLOUDS DID NOT COME.

OH, OH, I'M NO CATFISH. THAT'S JUST ANOTHER TRICK BY THE MAN WHO CREATED THAT INSTRUMENT.

JUST HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ALIVE? CATFISH MUST REALLY LIVE FOR A LONG TIME.

AND I WAS BURIED ALIVE TEN YEARS AGO.
I MET THIS MAN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO

IF THAT WERE NOT THE CASE,
THEN I WOULD NOT STILL POSSESS THIS BODY AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS.


I'M MADE OF CLAY.
I WAS CRAFTED IN THE IMAGE OF A CATFISH

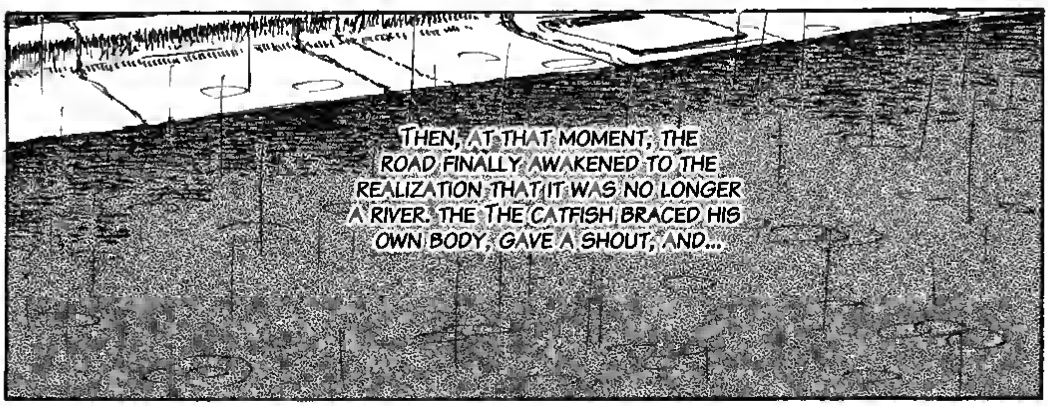
WAS MY BODY ALONE.
THE ONLY ONE LEFT BEHIND INTACT
MY COMRADES THAT WERE BURIED ALIVE ALONGSIDE ME,
THEY'VE ALL ROTTED AND CEASED TO EXIST.
THE FRIENDS OF A THOUSAND YEARS PAST,

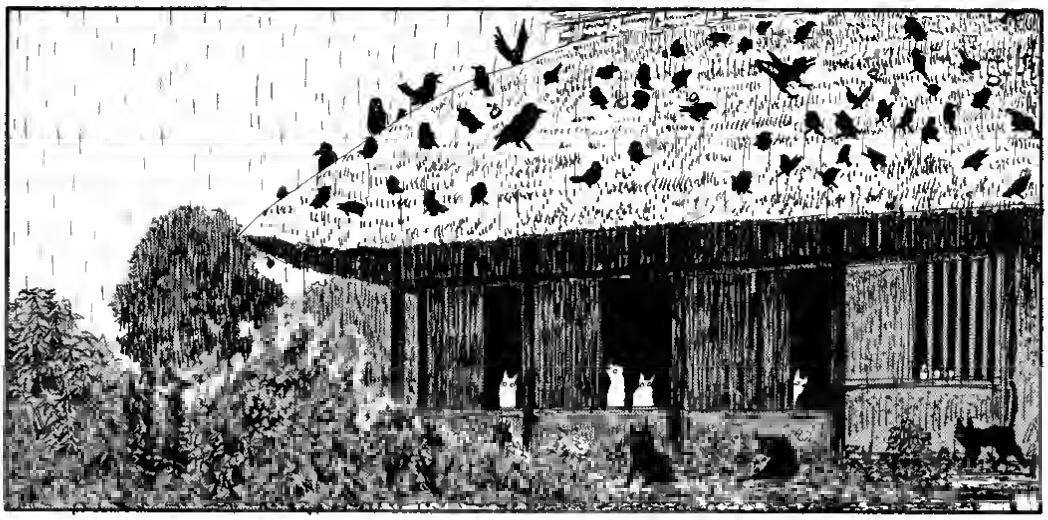
IT SEEMS LIKE THE ANIMALS GATHER AROUND DESPITE IT BEING A DAY OF RAIN.
FOR YOUR FIRST TIME, IT MUST BE WELL MADE.
OR PERHAPS THE PERSON PLAYING IT IS VERY SKILLED.

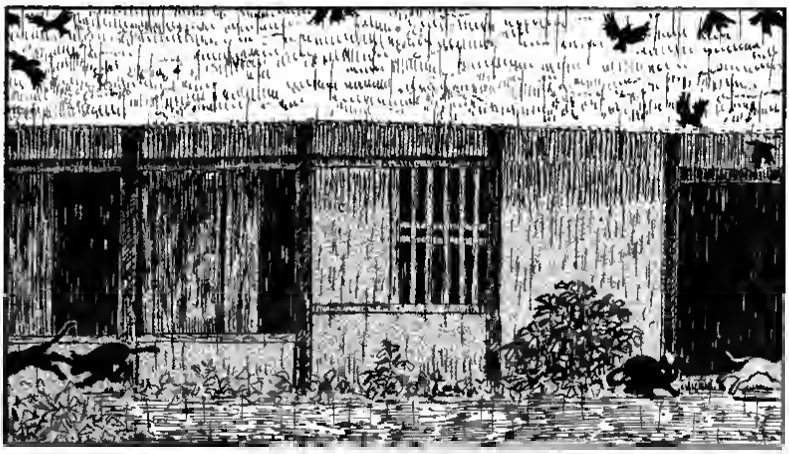
AND I AM PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THAT SOUND MADE BY THE SAME CLAY THAT CREATED ME.
IT SINGS TO ME IN A GREAT CHORUS.

GOUUU GOU GOU GOU GOU GOU

YUUUUUAN YUAN YUAN OUUU ONNG ONNG ONNG

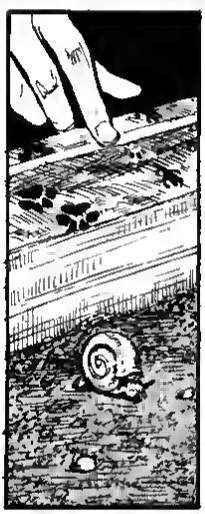


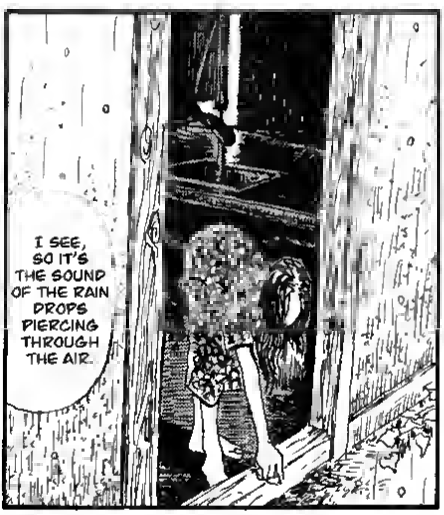


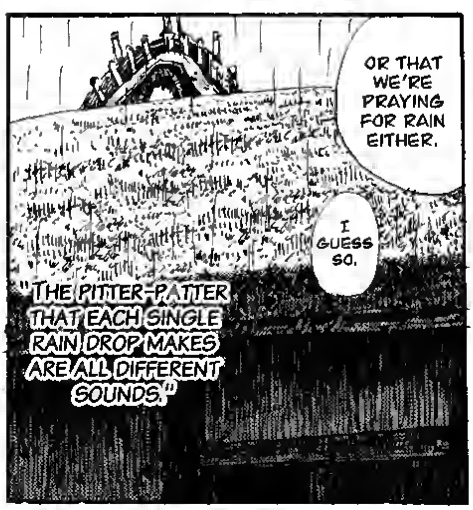


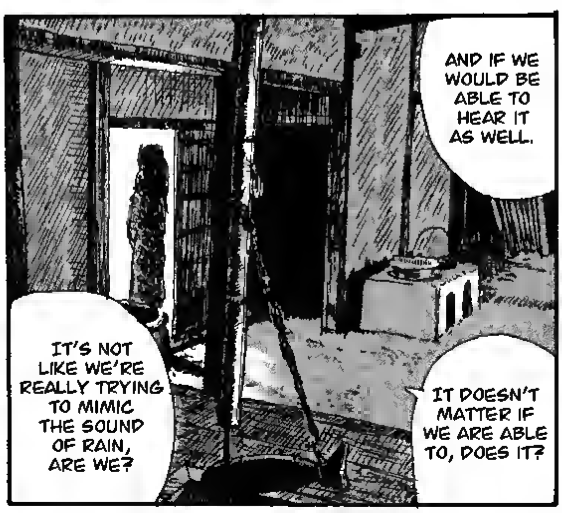
WELCOME BACK.

I WONDER IF THE PEOPLE BACK THEN WERE ABLE TO MAKE THAT OUT FROM WITHIN THIS PITTER-PATTER.

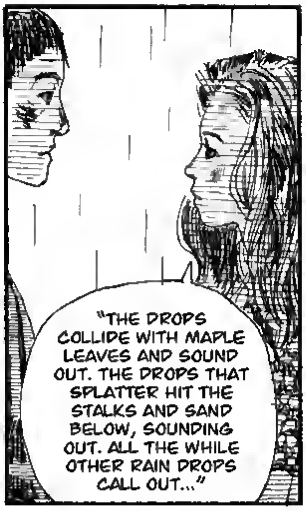


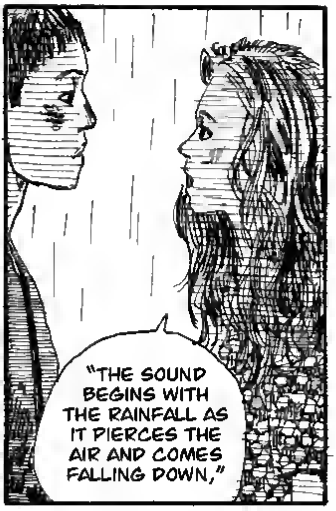

I SEE, SO IT'S THE SOUND OF THE RAIN DROPS PIERCING THROUGH THE AIR.


OR THAT WE'RE PRAYING FOR RAIN EITHER.
I GUESS SO.
"THE PITTER-PATTER THAT EACH SINGLE RAIN DROP MAKES ARE ALL DIFFERENT SOUNDS."

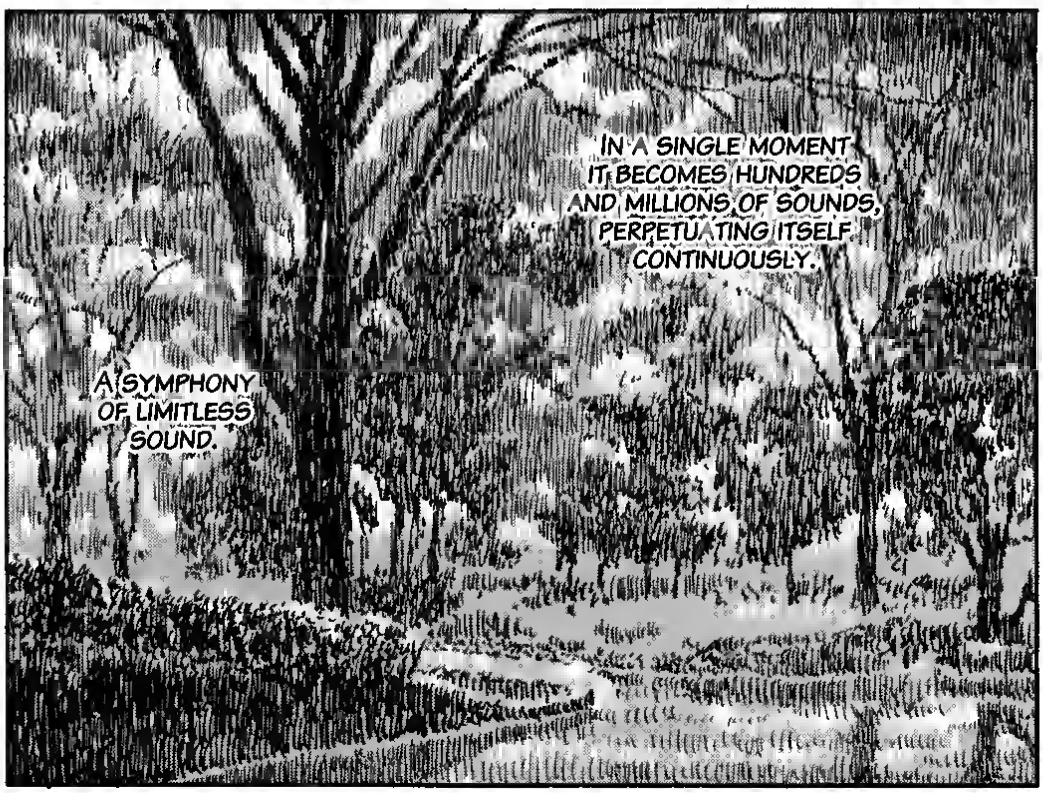

AND IF WE WOULD BE ABLE TO HEAR IT AS WELL.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE REALLY TRYING TO MIMIC THE SOUND OF RAIN, ARE WE?
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE ARE ABLE TO, DOES IT?

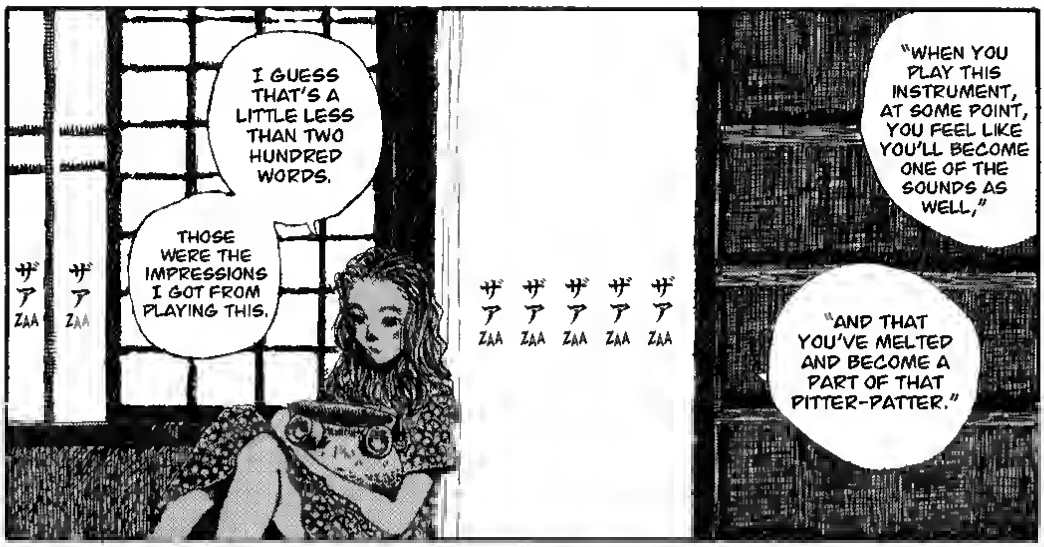
THE SOUND OF OBSIDIAN
THE SOUND OF THE CHAMELEON PLANT
THE SOUND OF THE SMALL EGRETS
THE SOUND OF THE SNAILS
THE SOUND OF THE SPIDER'S WEB
THE SOUND OF THE SKUNK CABBAGE
THE SOUND OF THE LOTUS
THE SOUND OF THE GERANIUM
THE SOUND OF THE EVENING PRIMROSE

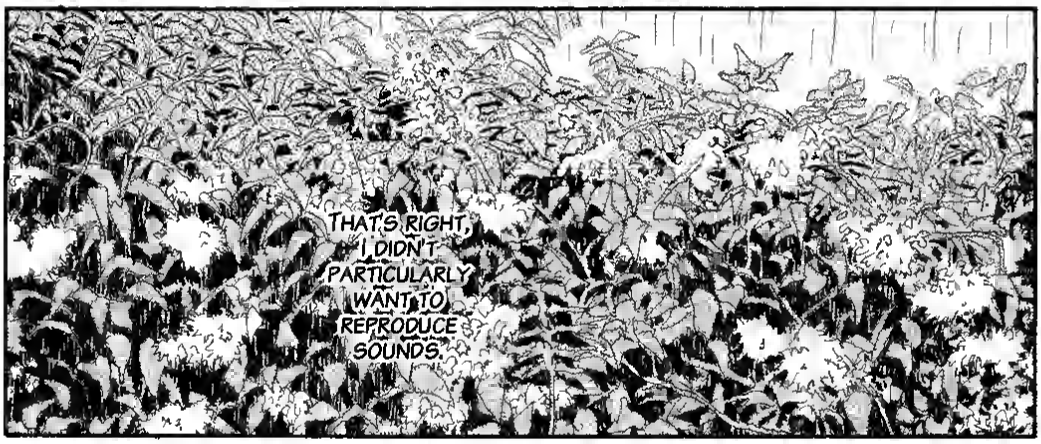

"THE DROPS COLLIDE WITH MAPLE LEAVES AND SOUND OUT. THE DROPS THAT SPLATTER HIT THE STALKS AND SAND BELOW, SOUNDING OUT. ALL THE WHILE OTHER RAIN DROPS CALL OUT..."

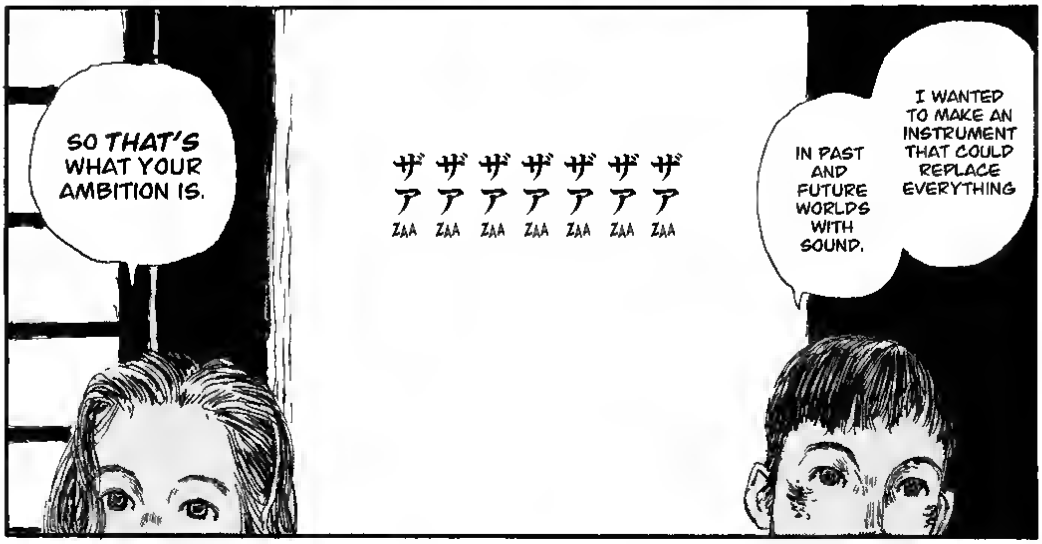

"THE SOUND BEGINS WITH THE RAINFALL AS IT PIERCES THE AIR AND COMES FALLING DOWN,"

HOW MANY TONES DO THEY NUMBER?


IN A SINGLE MOMENT IT BECOMES HUNDREDS AND MILLIONS OF SOUNDS, PERPETUATING ITSELF CONTINUOUSLY.
A SYMPHONY OF LIMITLESS SOUND.

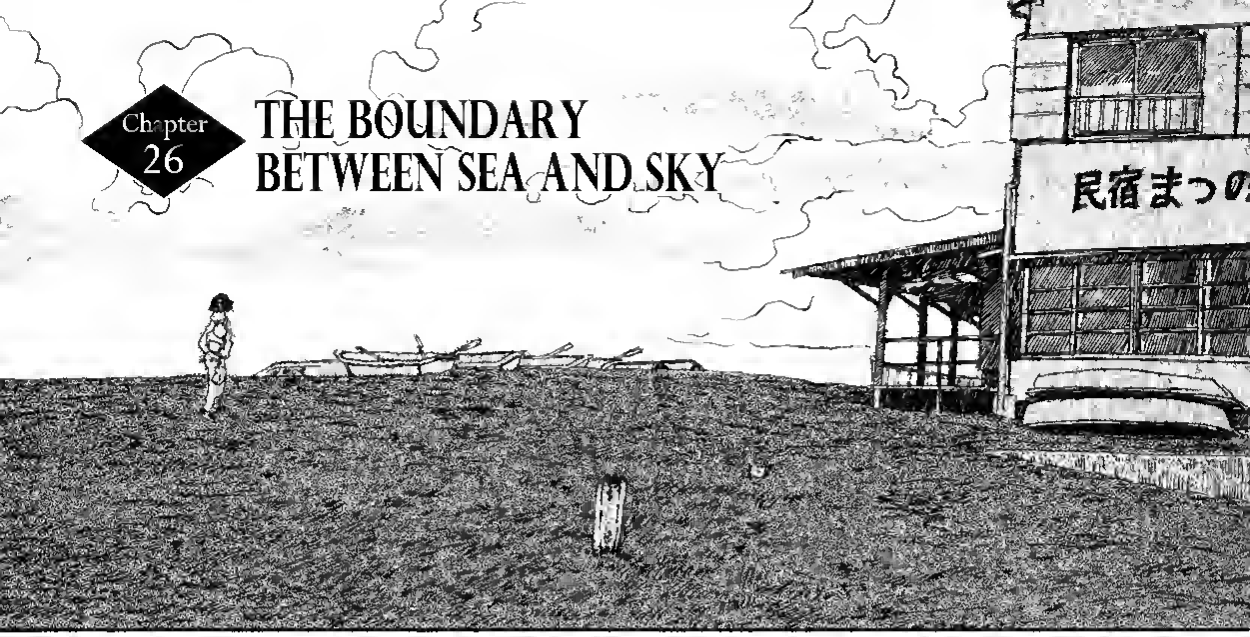

I GUESS THAT'S A LITTLE LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED WORDS.
THOSE WERE THE IMPRESSIONS I GOT FROM PLAYING THIS.
ZAA ZAA
ZAA ZAA ZAA ZAA ZAA
"WHEN YOU PLAY THIS INSTRUMENT, AT SOME POINT, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'LL BECOME ONE OF THE SOUNDS AS WELL,"
"AND THAT YOU'VE MELTED AND BECOME A PART OF THAT PITTER-PATTER."

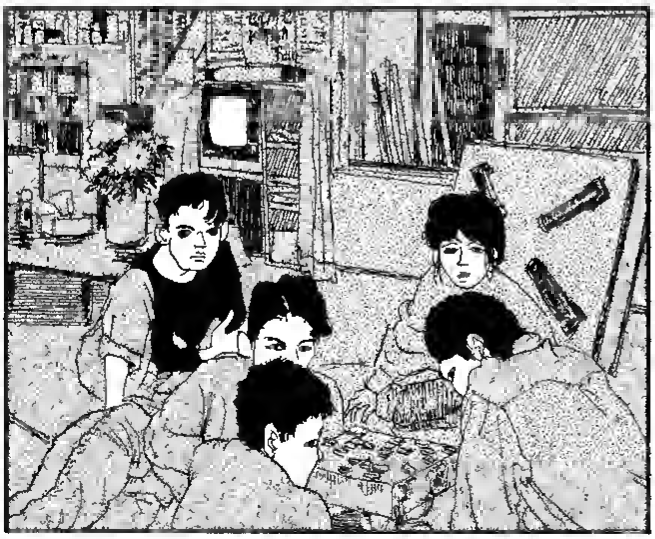

THAT'S RIGHT, I DIDN'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO REPRODUCE SOUNDS.

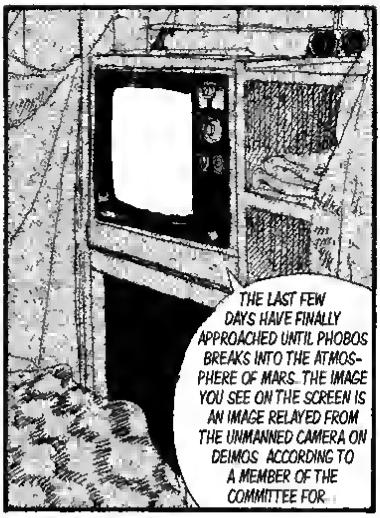

SO THAT'S WHAT YOUR AMBITION IS.
ZAA ZAA ZAA ZAA ZAA ZAA ZAA
IN PAST AND FUTURE WORLDS WITH SOUND.
I WANTED TO MAKE AN INSTRUMENT THAT COULD REPLACE EVERYTHING

Chapter 26

THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SEA AND SKY

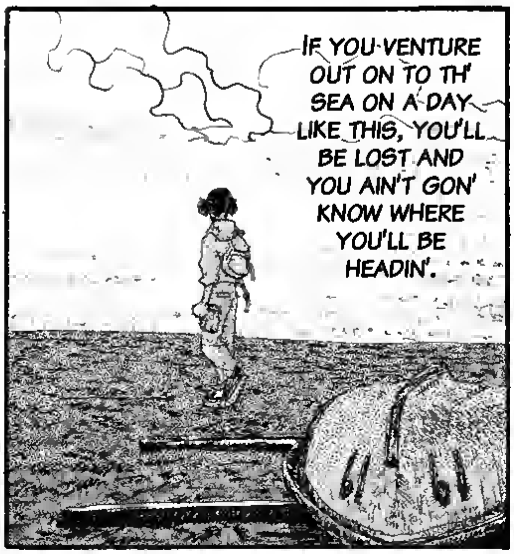





THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE FINALLY APPROACHED UNTIL PHOBOS BREAKS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF MARS. THE IMAGE YOU SEE ON THE SCREEN IS AN IMAGE RELAYED FROM THE UNMANNED CAMERA ON DEIMOS. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR

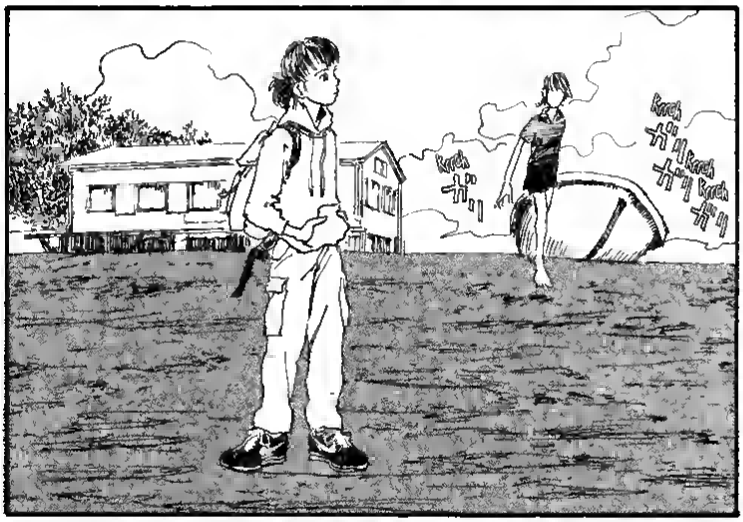
NOPE. YOU CAN'T. NOT TODAY.

UM...

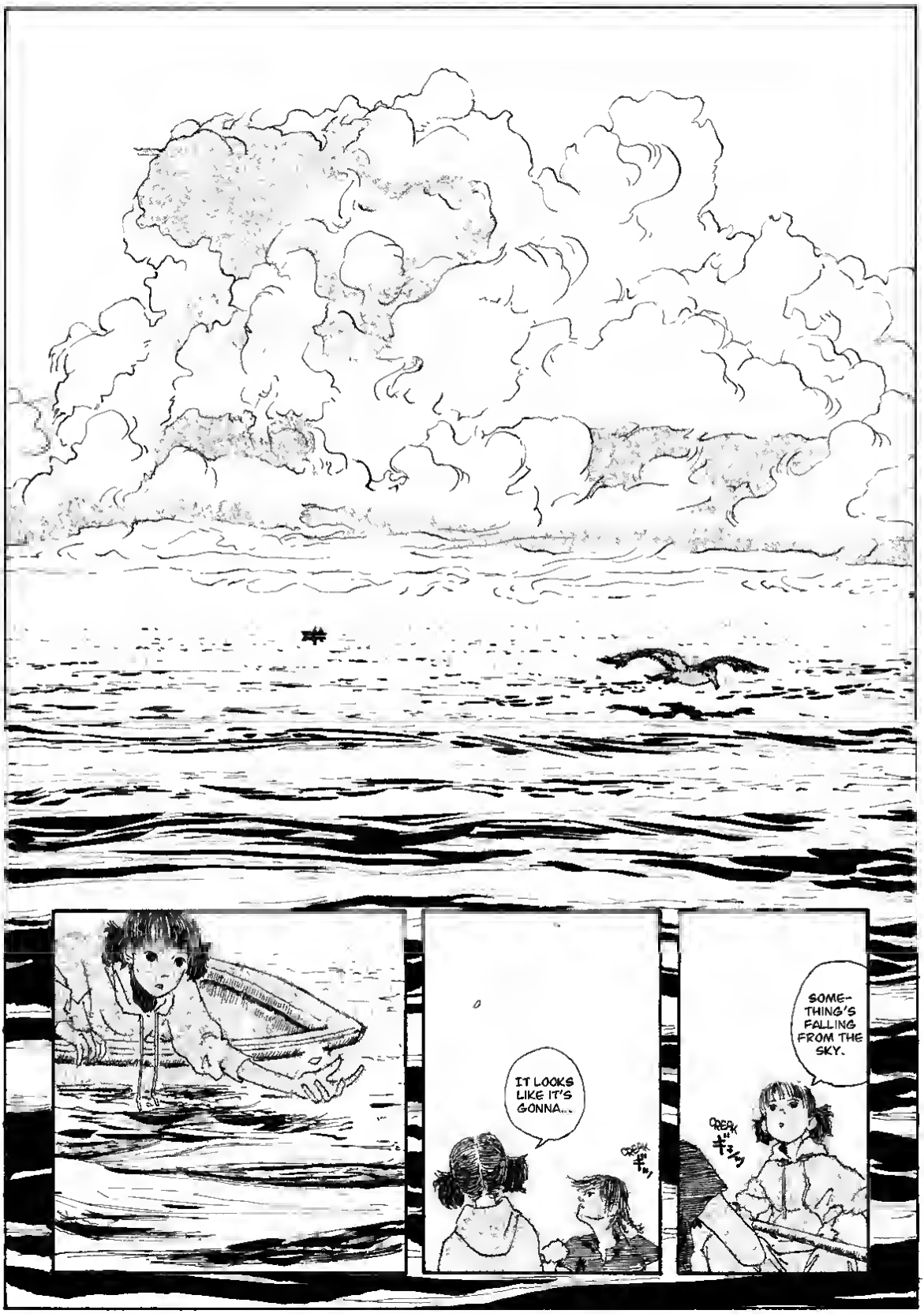

IF YOU VENTURE OUT ON TO TH' SEA ON A DAY LIKE THIS, YOU'LL BE LOST AND YOU AIN'T GON' KNOW WHERE YOU'LL BE HEADIN'.

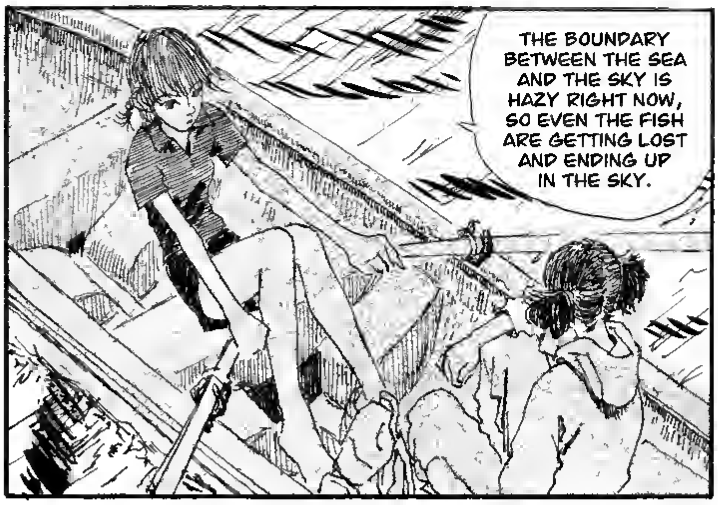
TH' SEA AND THE SKY ARE ALL SHININ', AND TH' BOUNDARIES ARE BECOMIN' UNCLEAR.

SO YOU WANT TO HEAD OUT TO SEA?

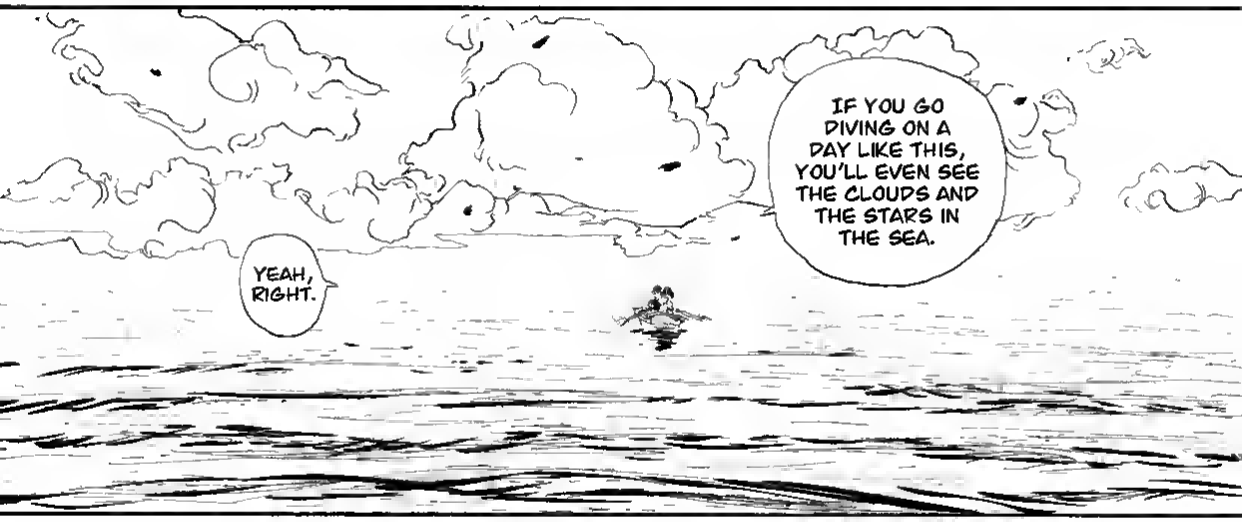

Kurch
Kurch
Kurch
Kurch

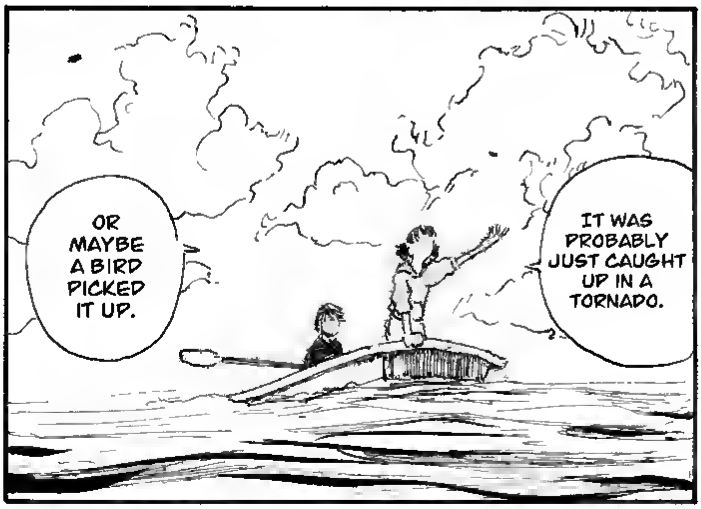
C'MON, GET IN. IF I GO WITH YOU, YOU WON'T GET LOST.

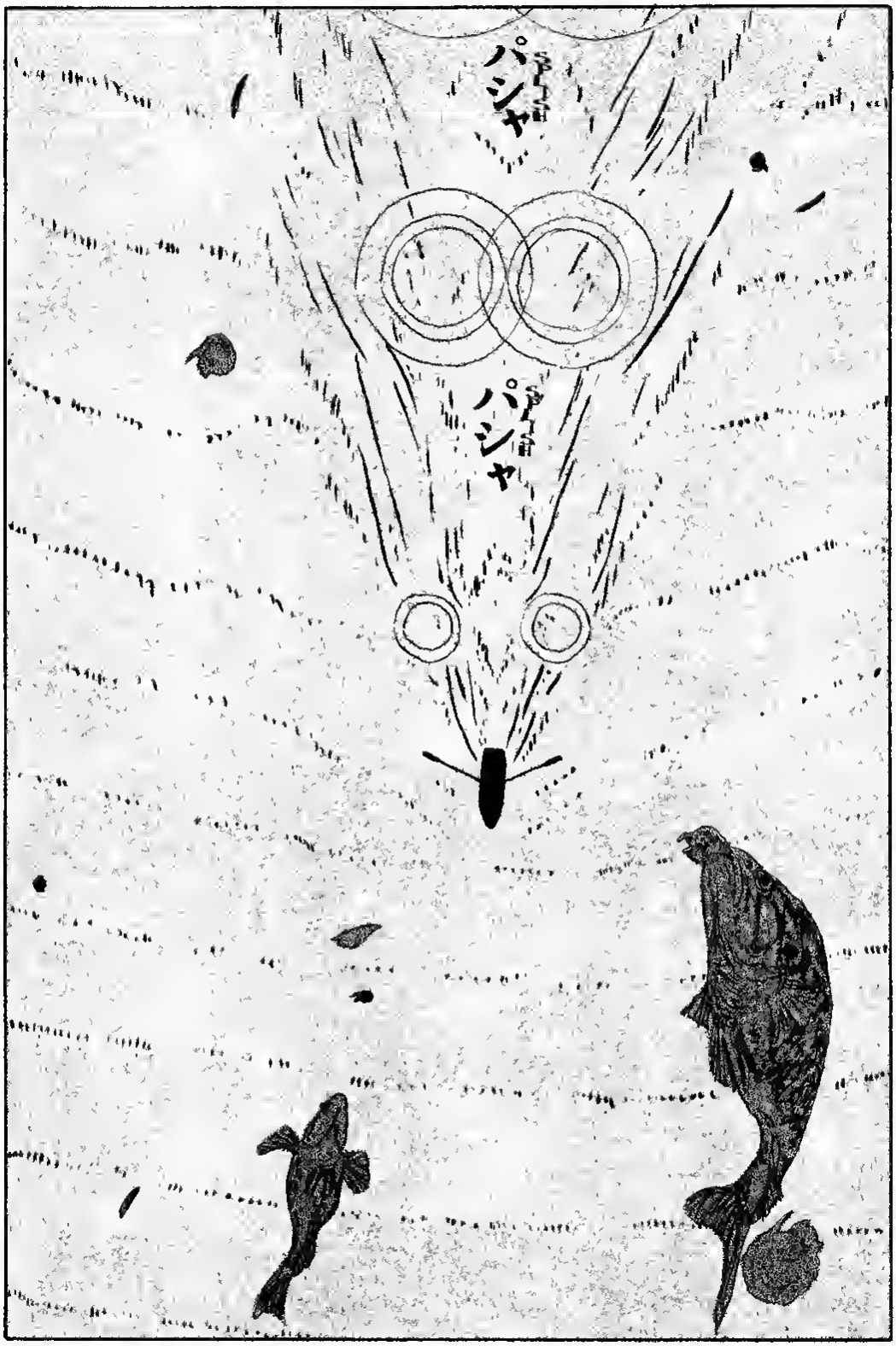

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA...
CREAK
SOME-THING'S FALLING FROM THE SKY.
CREAK

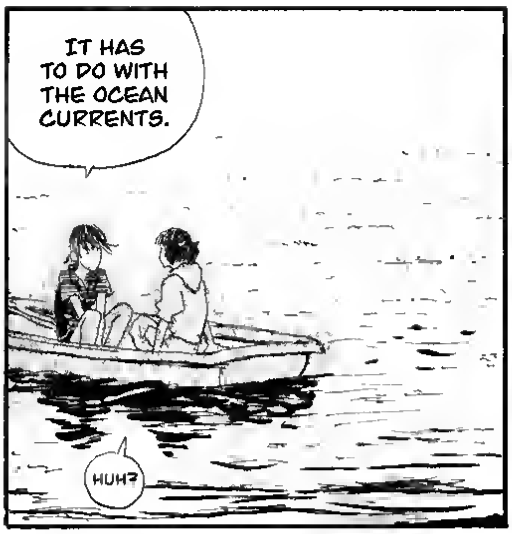

THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE SKY IS HAZY RIGHT NOW, SO EVEN THE FISH ARE GETTING LOST AND ENDING UP IN THE SKY.

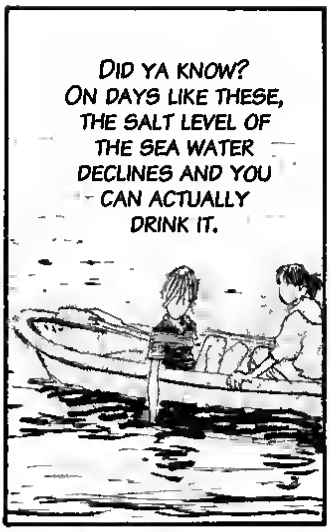
IT'S A FISH SCALE.


IF YOU GO DIVING ON A DAY LIKE THIS, YOU'LL EVEN SEE THE CLOUDS AND THE STARS IN THE SEA.
YEAH, RIGHT.


OR MAYBE A BIRD PICKED IT UP.
IT WAS PROBABLY JUST CAUGHT UP IN A TORNADO.

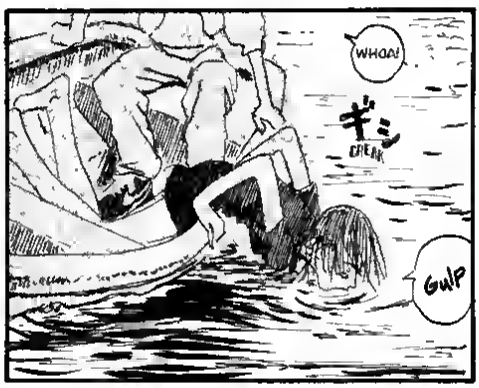

パシャ
パシャ

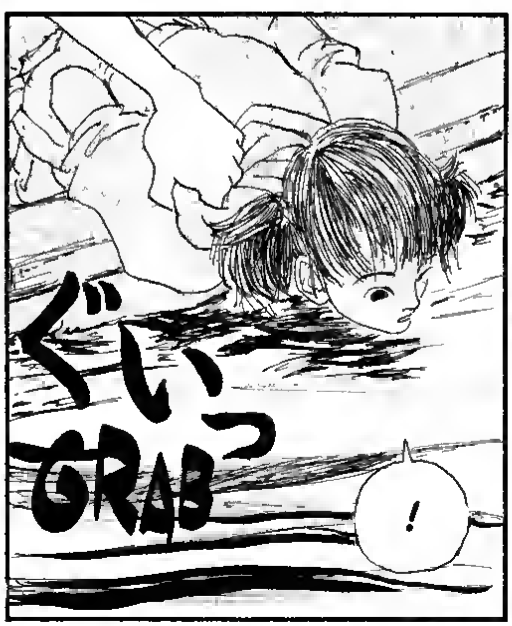

IT HAS TO DO WITH THE OCEAN CURRENTS.
HUH?


DID YA KNOW? ON DAYS LIKE THESE, THE SALT LEVEL OF THE SEA WATER DECLINES AND YOU CAN ACTUALLY DRINK IT.

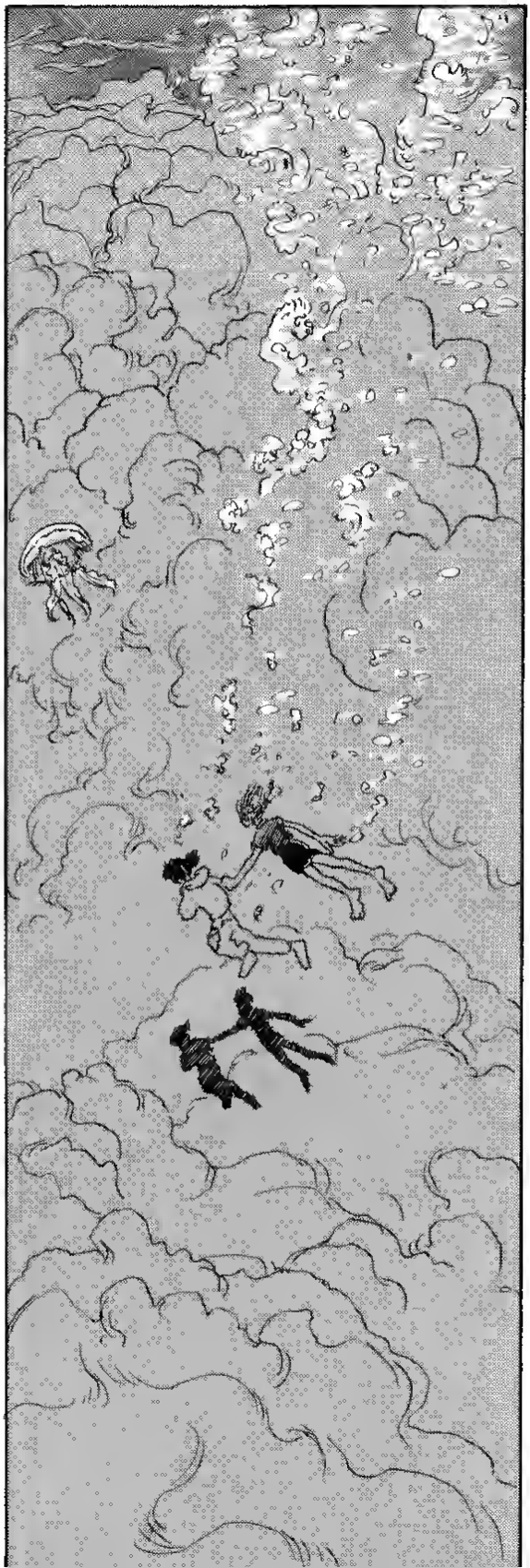
I FIGURED YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT I WAS TRYING TO TRICK YOU.

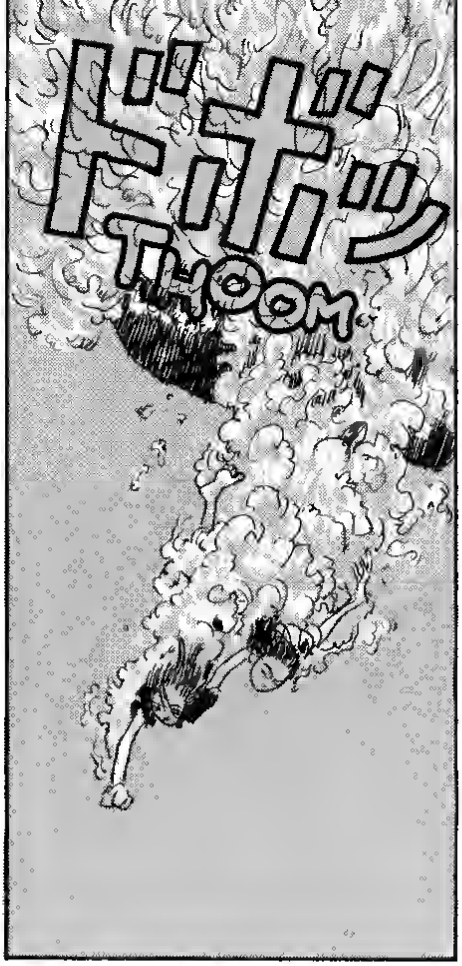
TRY IT FOR YOURSELF.

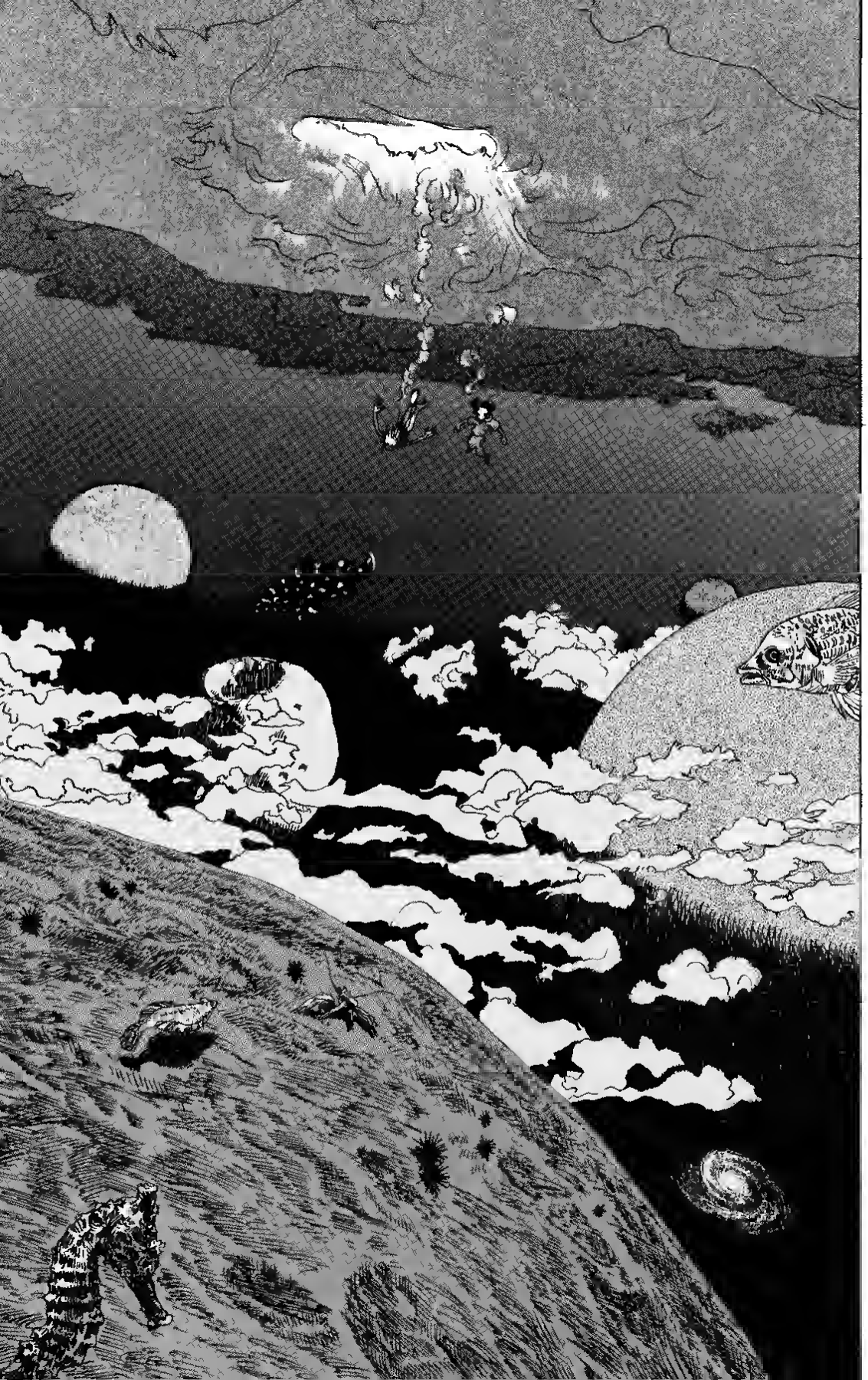

WHOA!
ギシ
CREAK
GULP

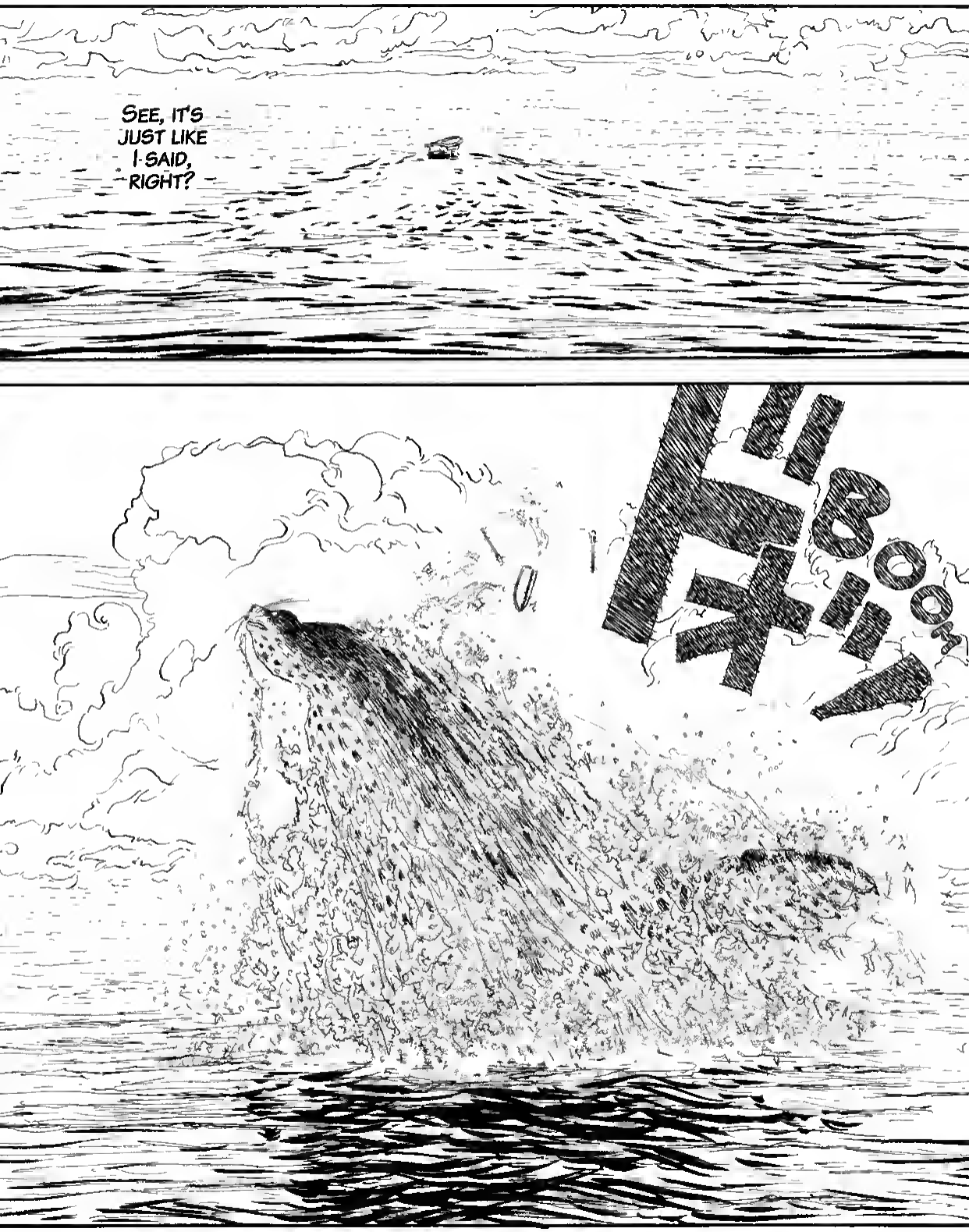

ぐいっ
GRAB
!

..



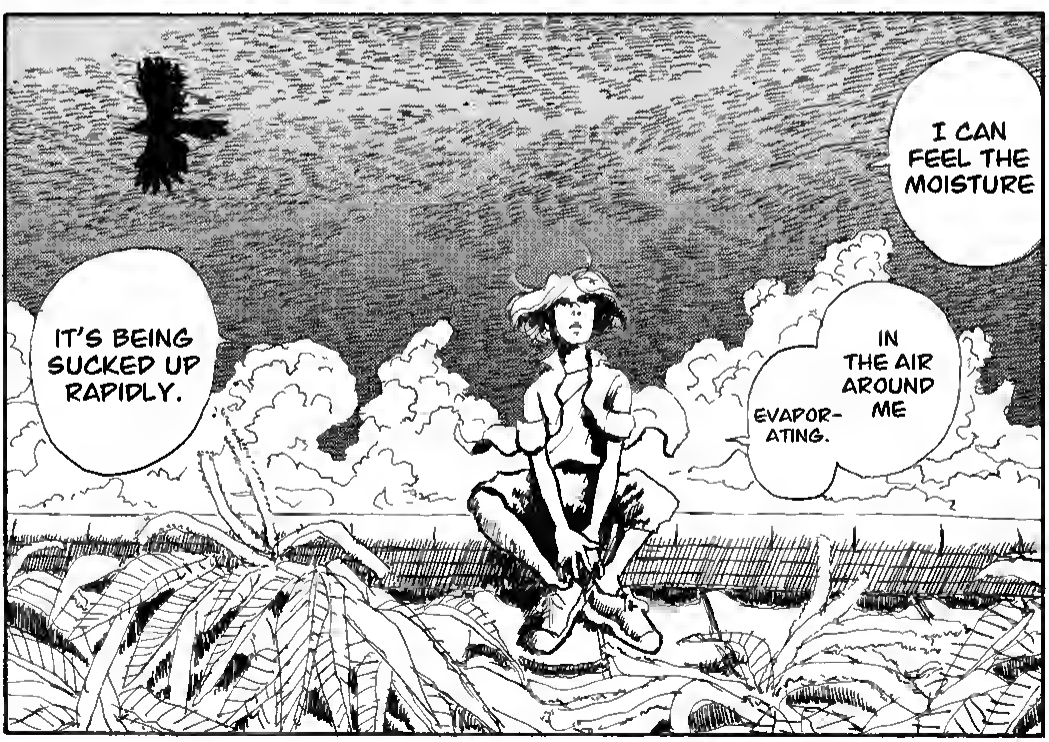

ドボッ
THOOM

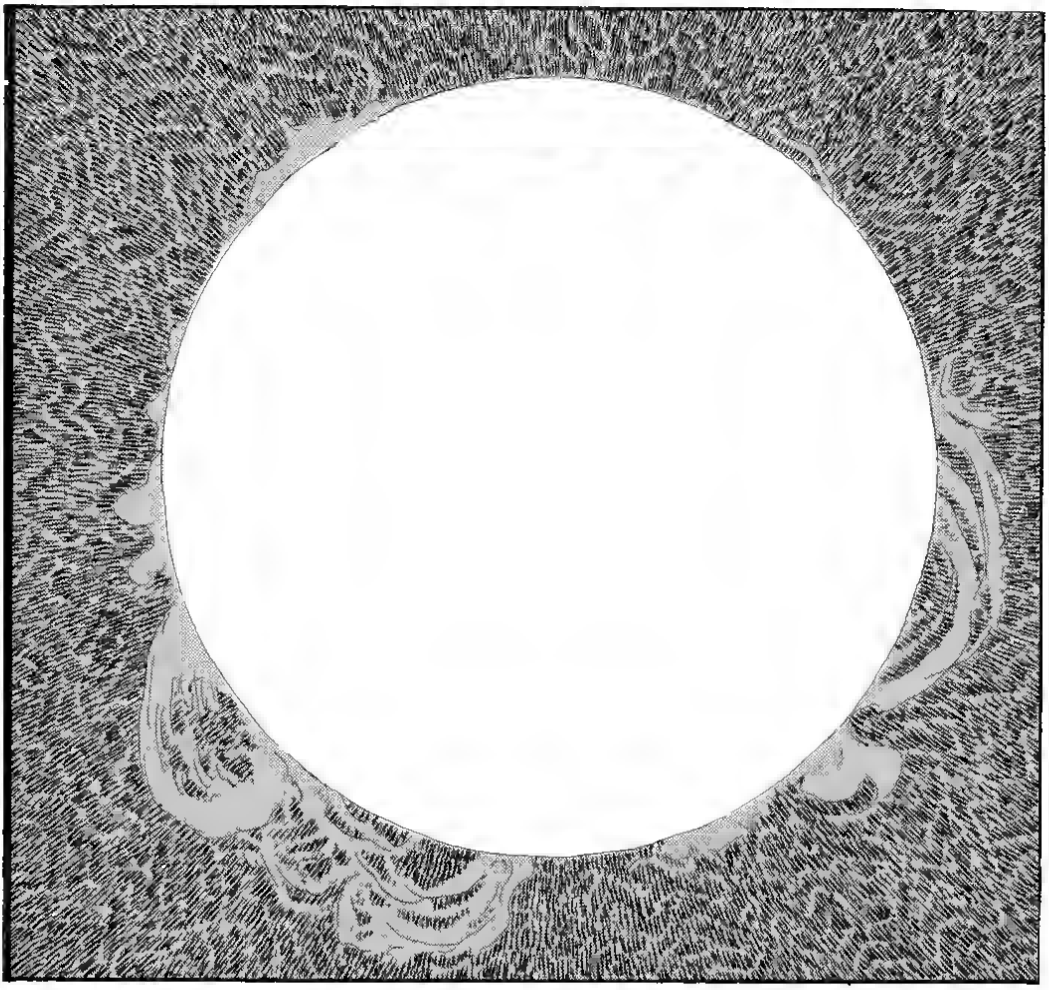


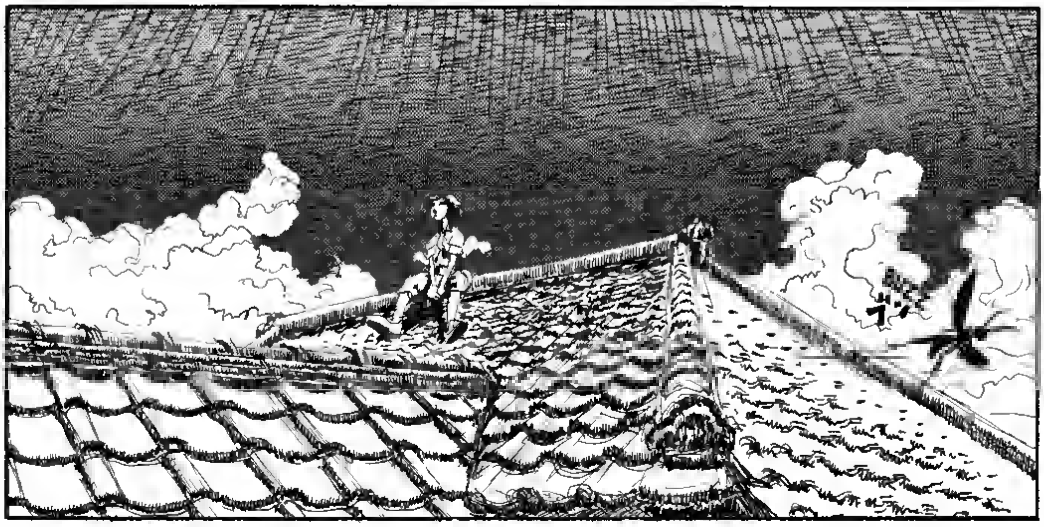

SEE, IT'S JUST LIKE I SAID, RIGHT?
BOOM

Chapter 27

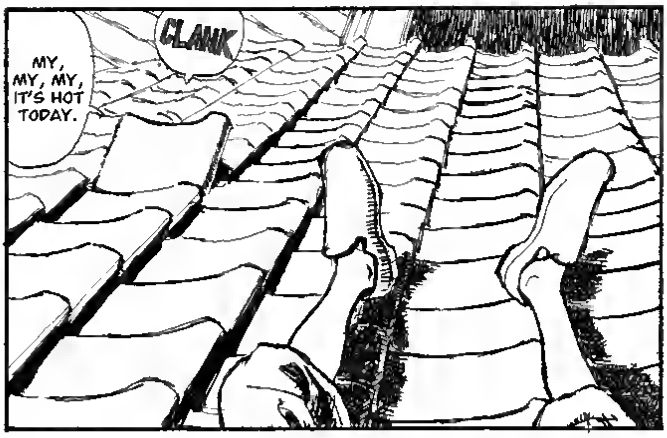
THE FIERCE SUN BEAMS ON TOP OF THE ROOF



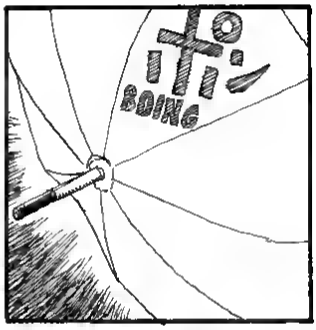


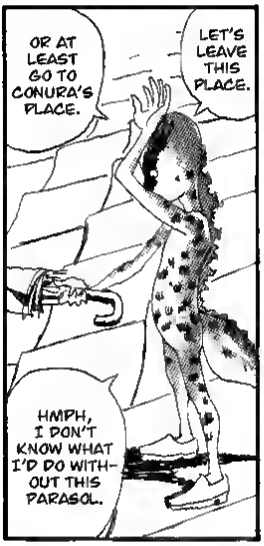


PHEW, IN THE OLD DAYS, THESE ROOFS USED TO BE WHERE SPIRITS LIVED

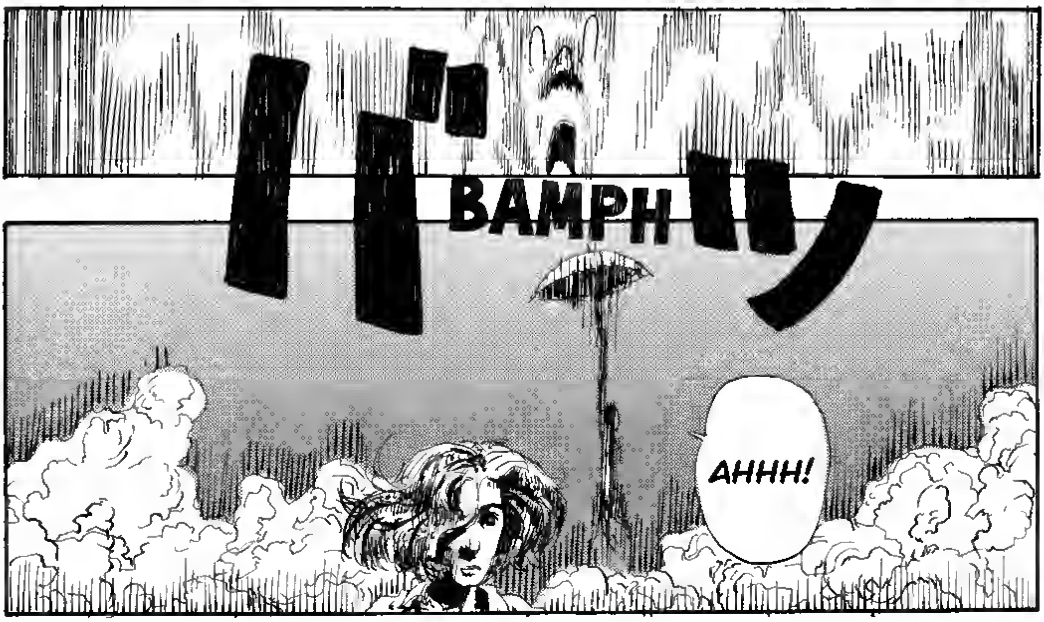

CLANK
MY, MY, MY, IT'S HOT TODAY.

CLIK

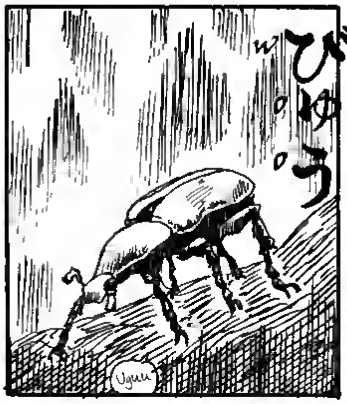

BOING


LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE.
OR AT LEAST GO TO CONURA'S PLACE.
HMPH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT THIS PARASOL.

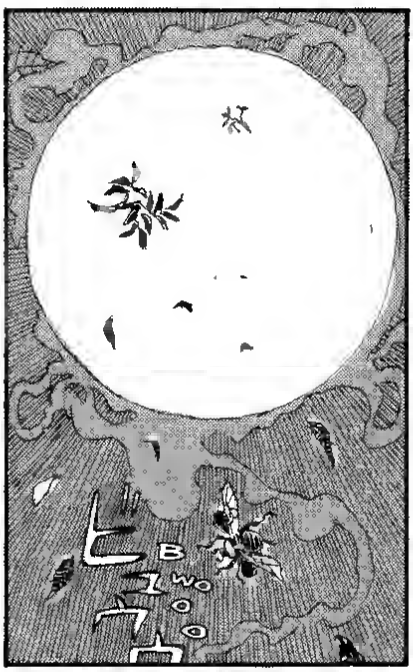
A BLIND SPOT FROM HUMAN EYES.
AREN'T THEY GOING TO BUILD A FIFTEEN STORY BUILDING NEXT TO US HERE?
SWELTERINGLY HOT.
THESE DAYS IT'S LIKE WE'RE BEING WATCHED FROM ABOVE.

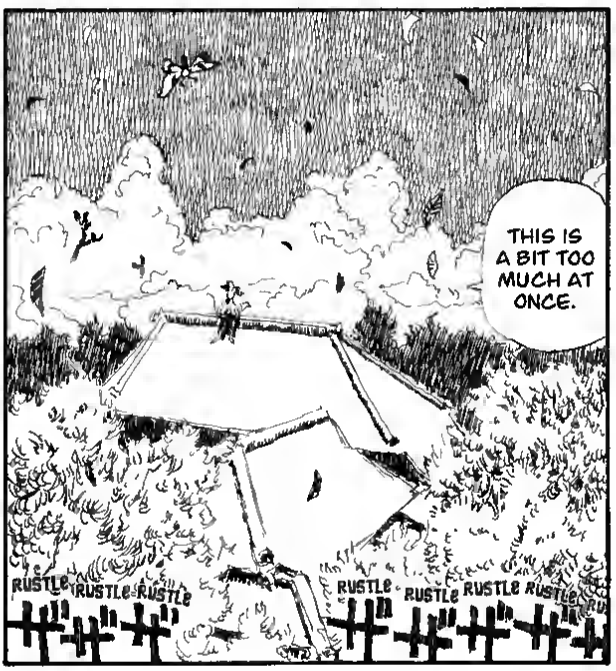

BAMPH
AHHH!

ヒュウウウウウウウウウウウウ
WH
SH
CLATTER バタ
CLATTER バタ
CLATTER バタ
CLATTER バタ
IT'S AN UPDRAFT!

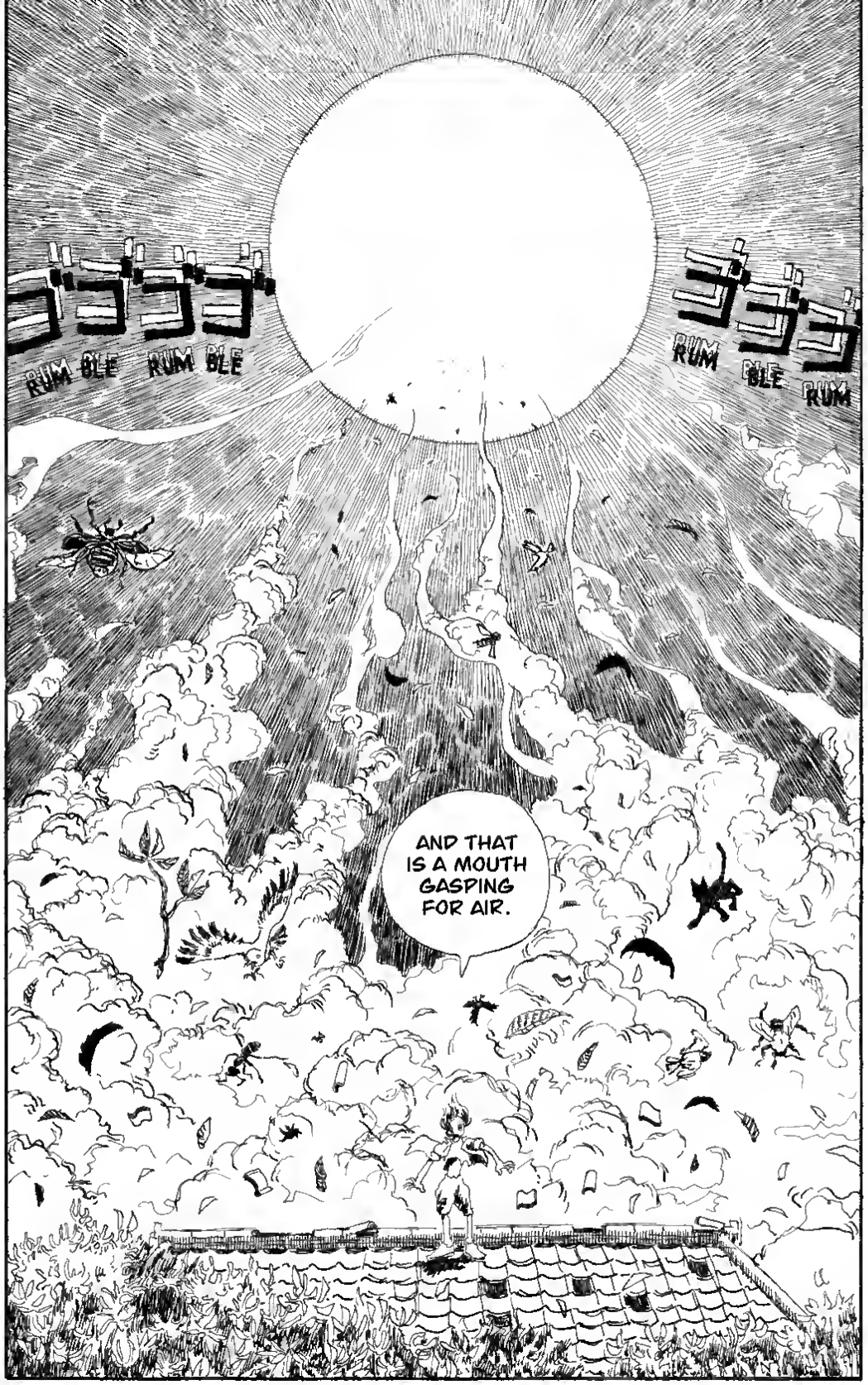


ARE YOU TRYING TO BURN EVERY-THING TO A CRISP?



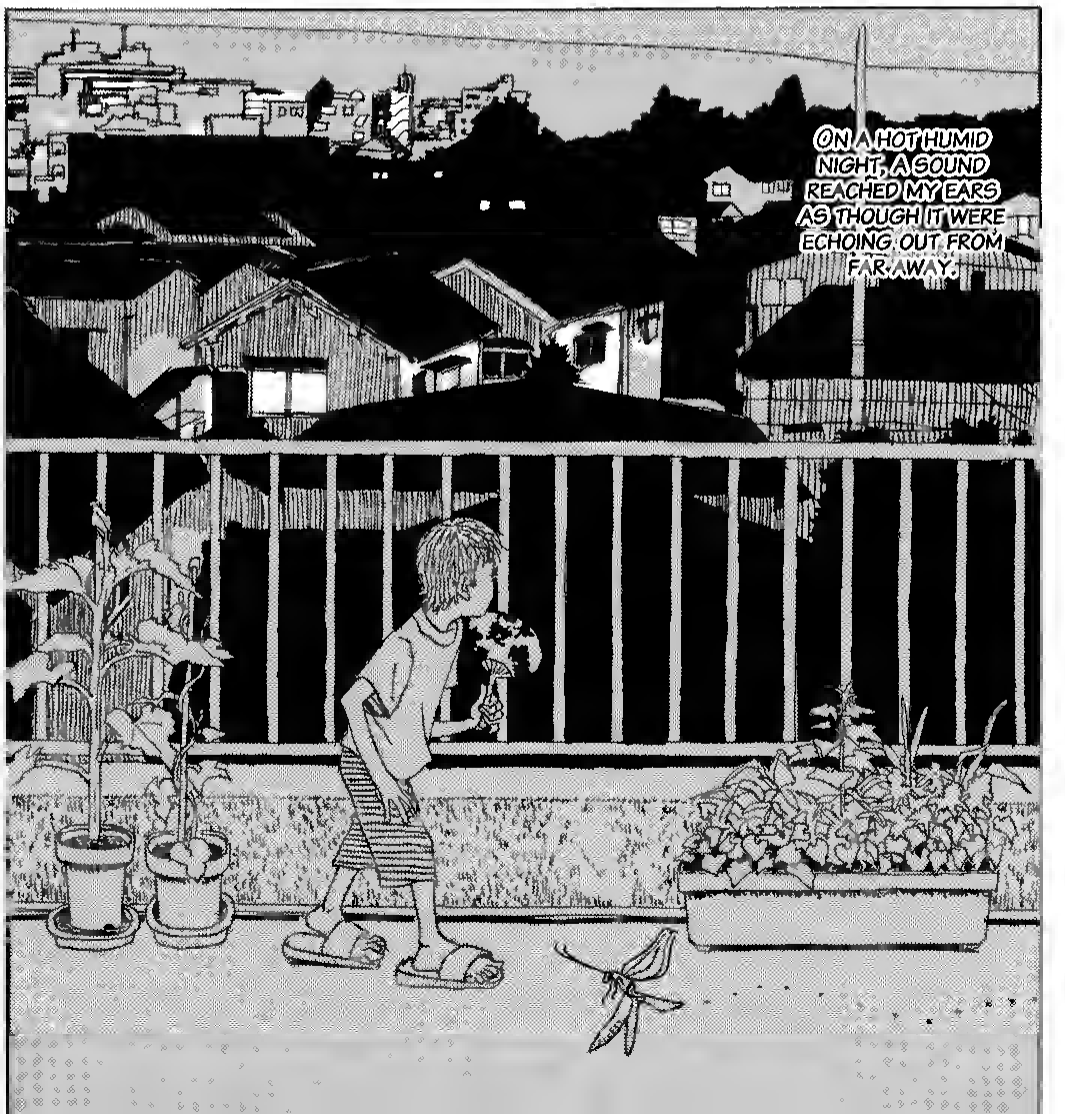

THIS IS A BIT TOO MUCH AT ONCE.
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

CLAK
CLARITY CLAK
AND UPDRAFT, IT'S AN INHALING BREATH.
THIS WIND SPOUT

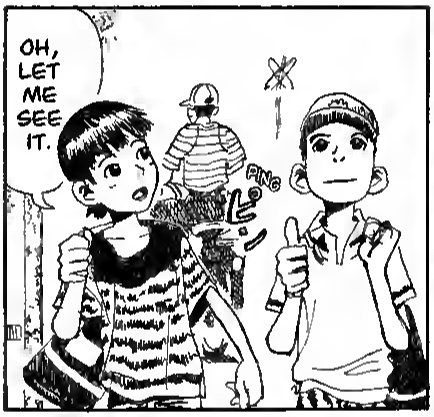

ゴゴゴゴ
RUM BLE RUM BLE
ゴゴゴゴ
RUM BLE RUM
AND THAT IS A MOUTH GASPING FOR AIR.

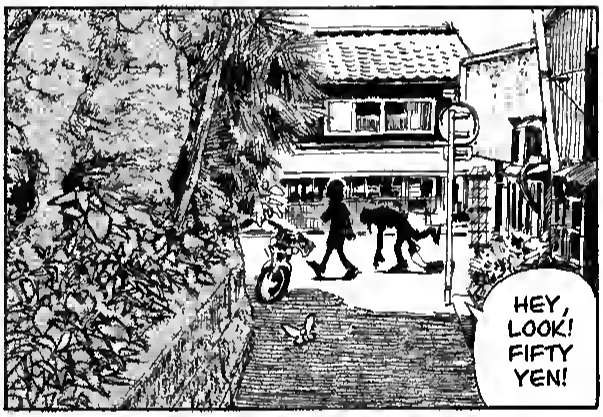
Chapter 28

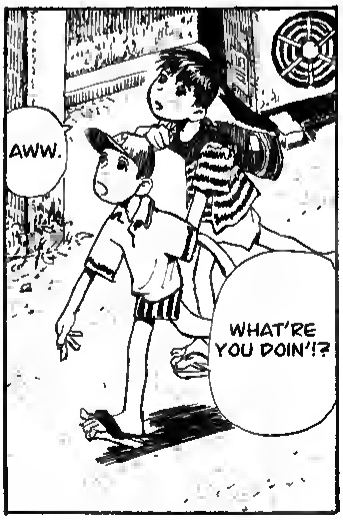
WHO'S HARDEST?

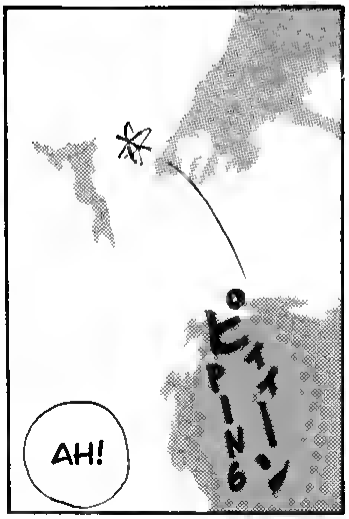


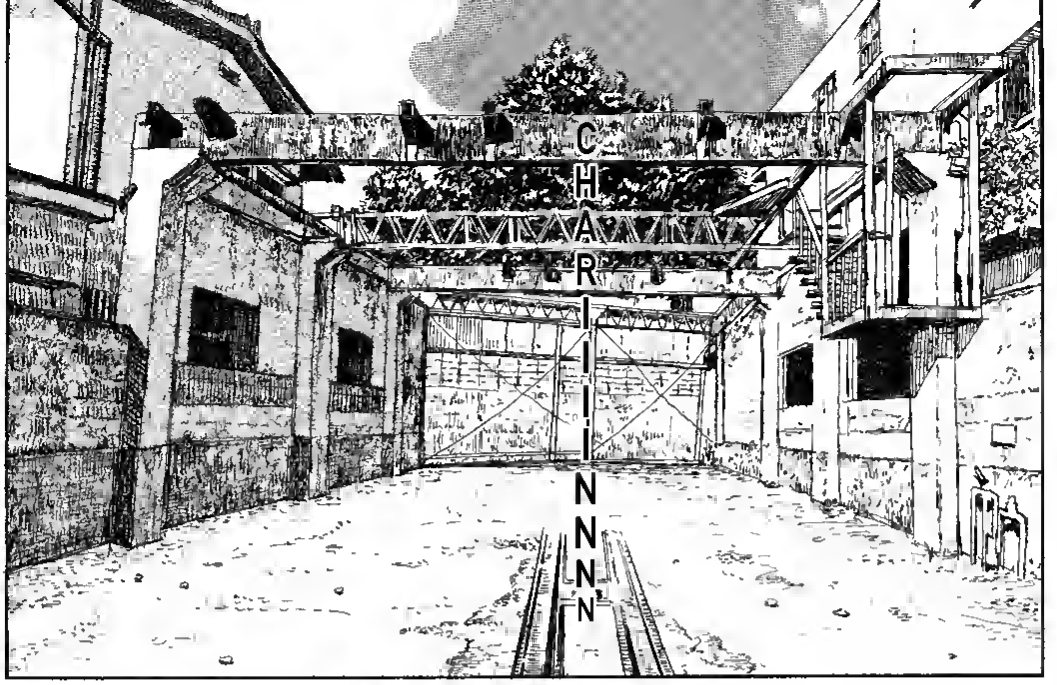
I HAD THOUGHT THAT THERE MUST'VE BEEN SOMEONE DOING SOME CONSTRUCTION SOMEWHERE.
WAIT UP!

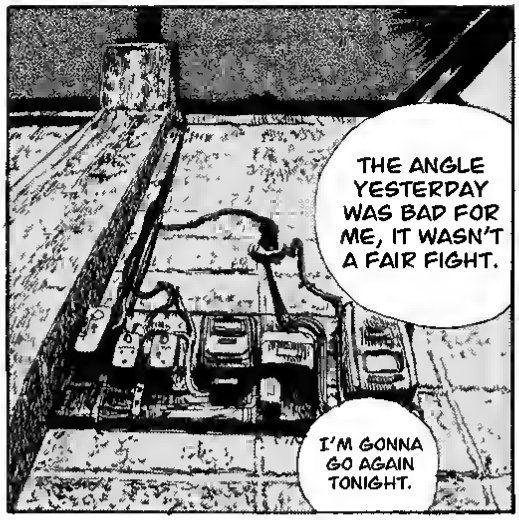

OH, LET ME SEE IT.
PING

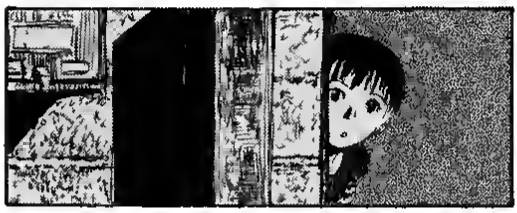

HEY, LOOK! FIFTY YEN!


AWW.
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'!?

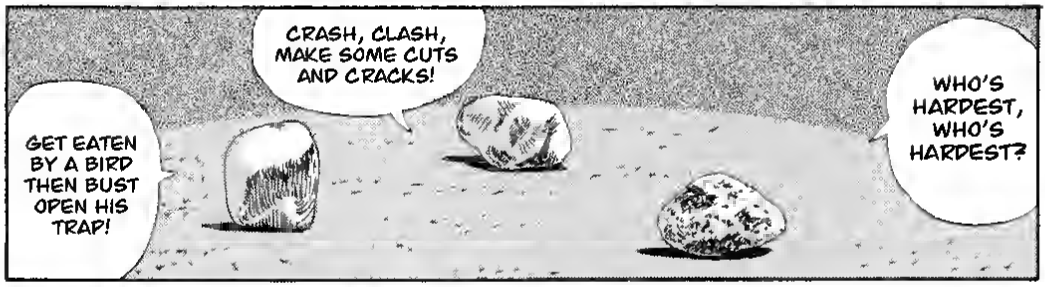

AH!
ピーン
PING


CHARIII


THE ANGLE YESTERDAY WAS BAD FOR ME, IT WASN'T A FAIR FIGHT.
I'M GONNA GO AGAIN TONIGHT.



LOOK, I HAVEN'T GOT A SCRATCH ON ME
SEE, I'M TELL-ING YOU, I'M THE HARDEST ONE OF ALL.


GET EATEN BY A BIRD THEN BUST OPEN HIS TRAP!
CRASH, CLASH, MAKE SOME CUTS AND CRACKS!
WHO'S HARDEST, WHO'S HARDEST?

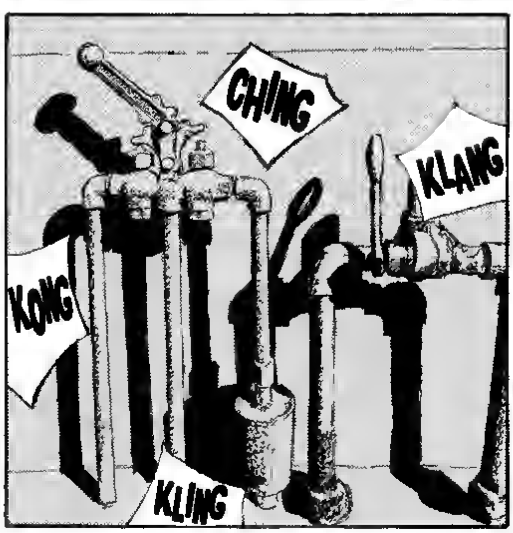
CLANG

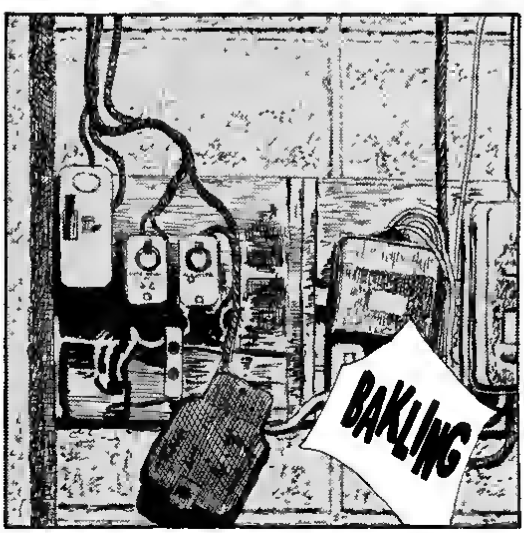
BANG

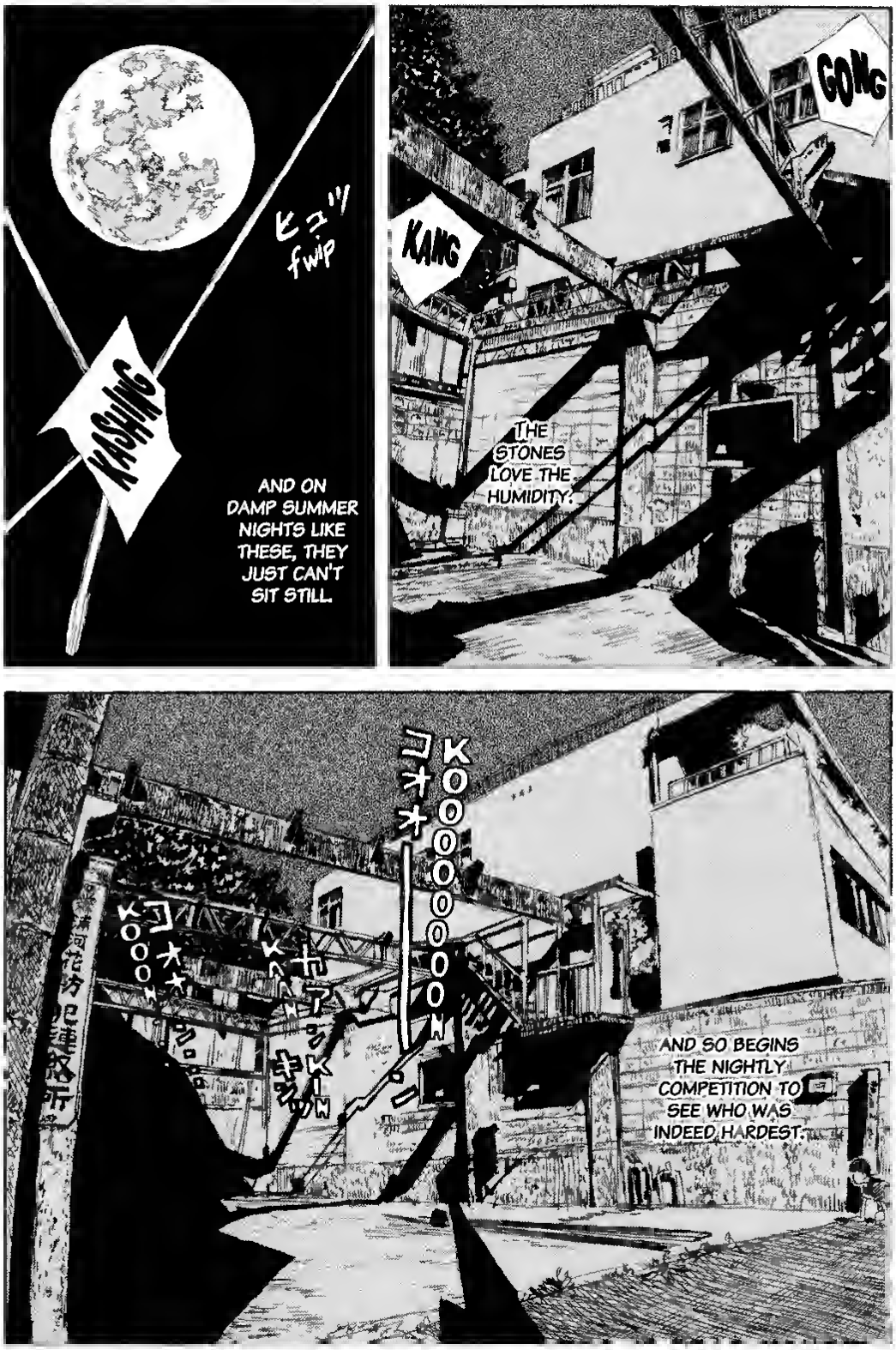
GONG
KLANG
KLING

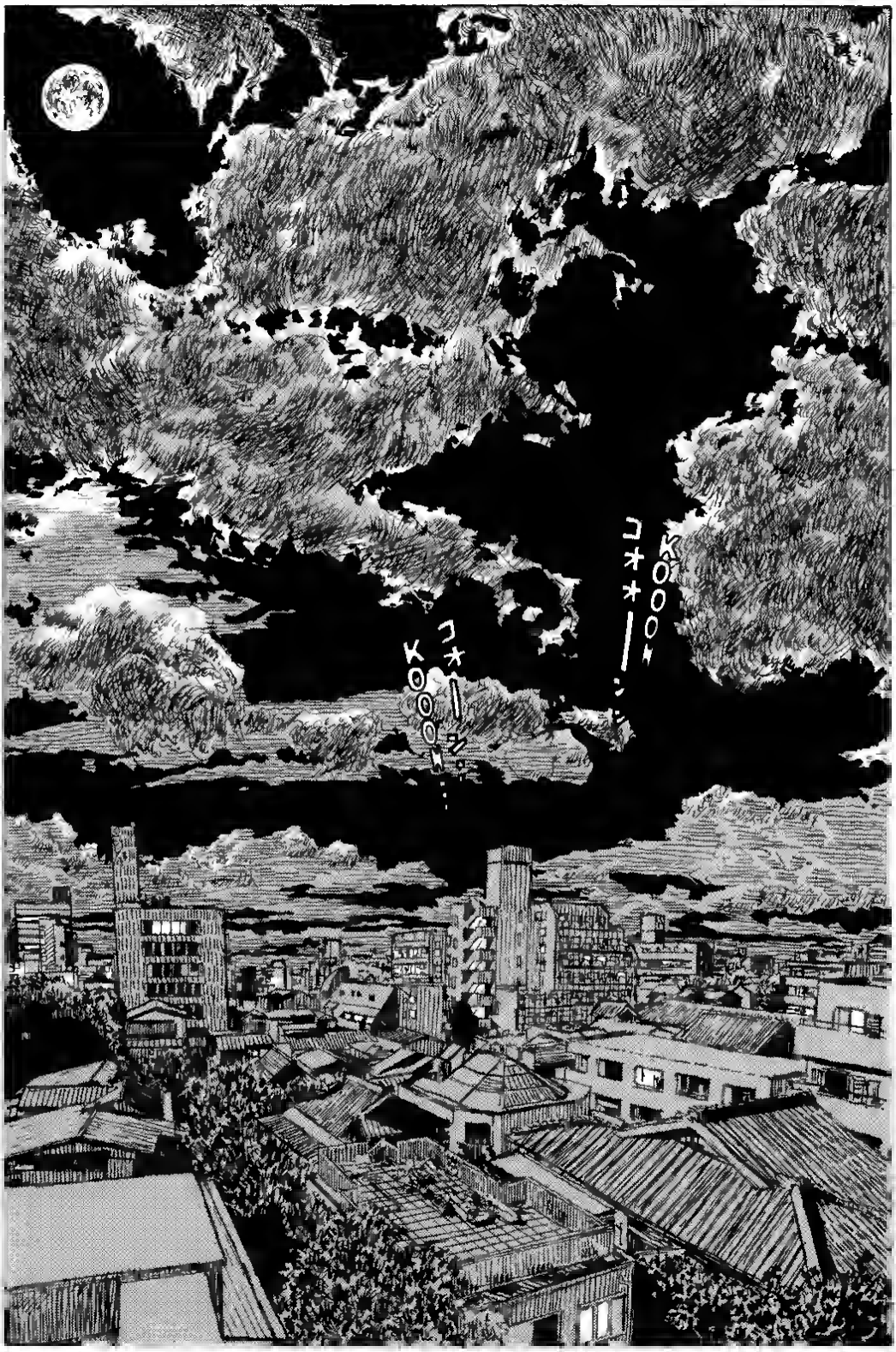
KACHA

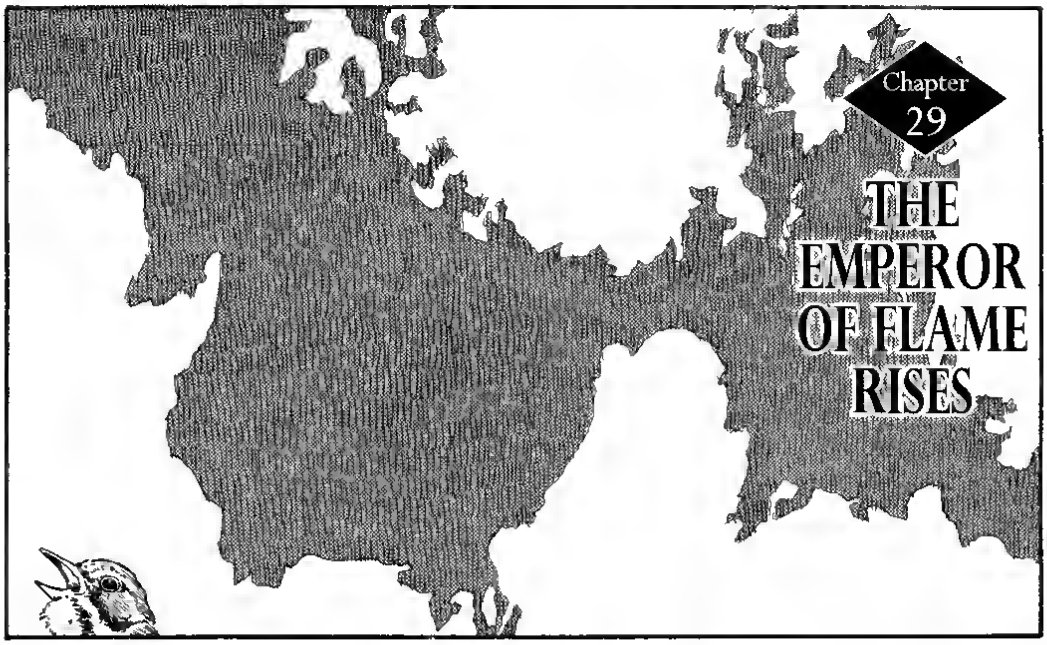
GAKING
WHOA!

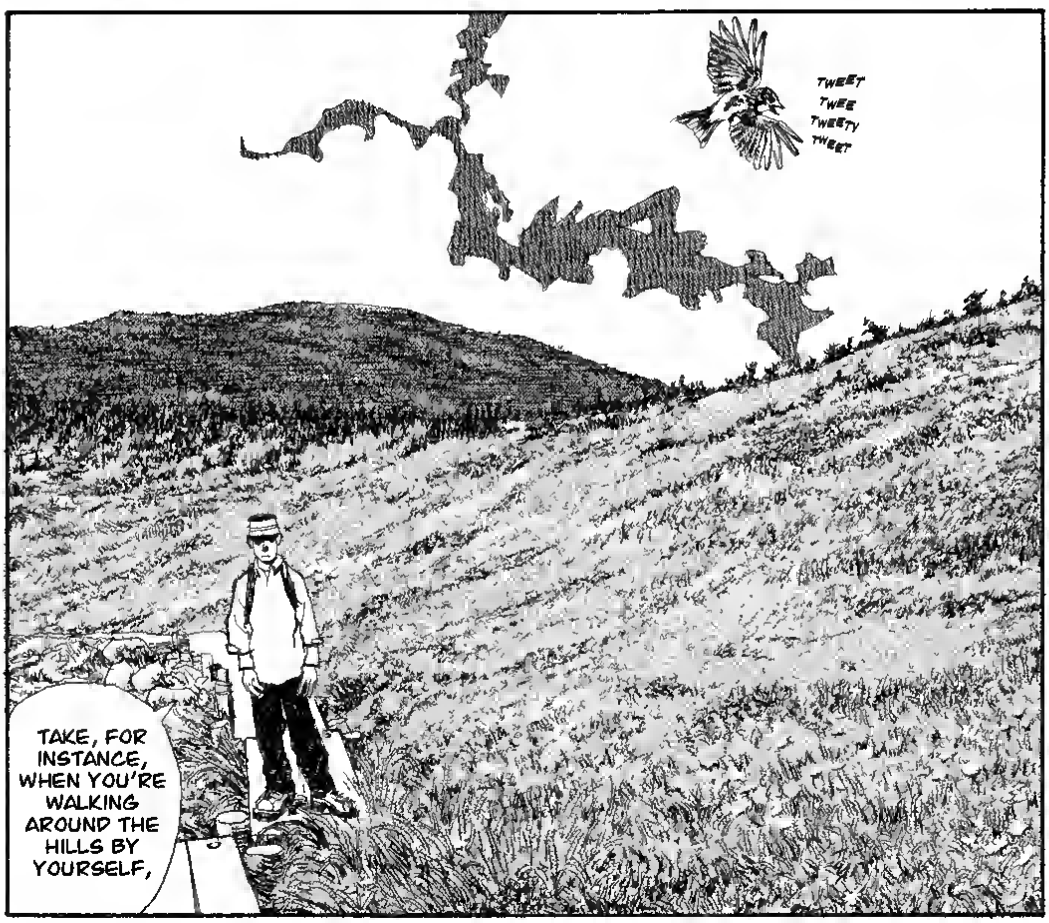

CHING
KLANG
KONG
KLING


BAKLING


ヒュッ
fwip
KASHING
AND ON DAMP SUMMER NIGHTS LIKE THESE, THEY JUST CAN'T SIT STILL.
GONG
KANG
THE STONES LOVE THE HUMIDITY.
KOOOOOOOOOON
コオオ
AND SO BEGINS THE NIGHTLY COMPETITION TO SEE WHO WAS INDEED HARDEST.

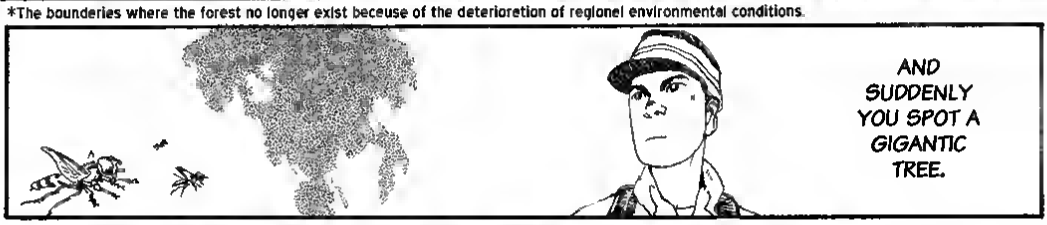

KOOOH
コオオーン
コオーン…
KOOOH…

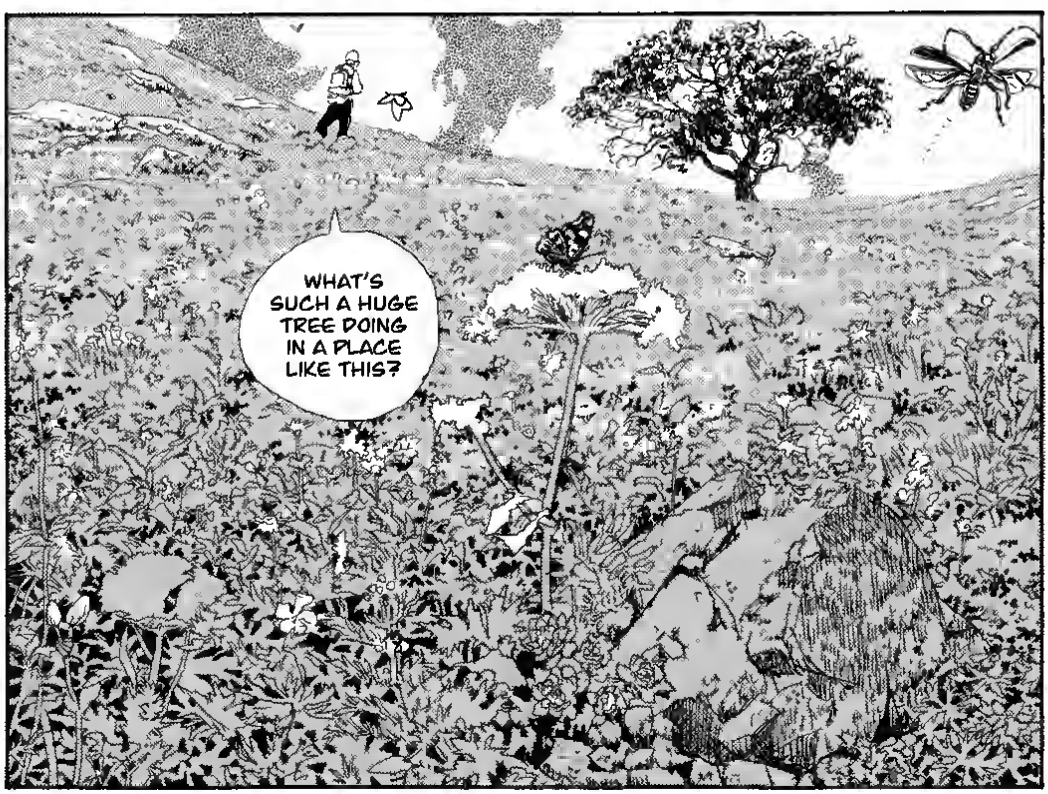

Chapter
29
THE EMPEROR OF FLAME RISES

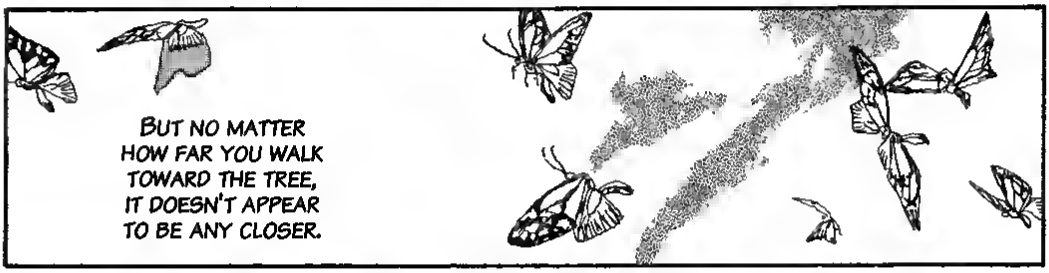

TWEET TWEE TWEETY TWEET
TAKE, FOR INSTANCE, WHEN YOU'RE WALKING AROUND THE HILLS BY YOURSELF,

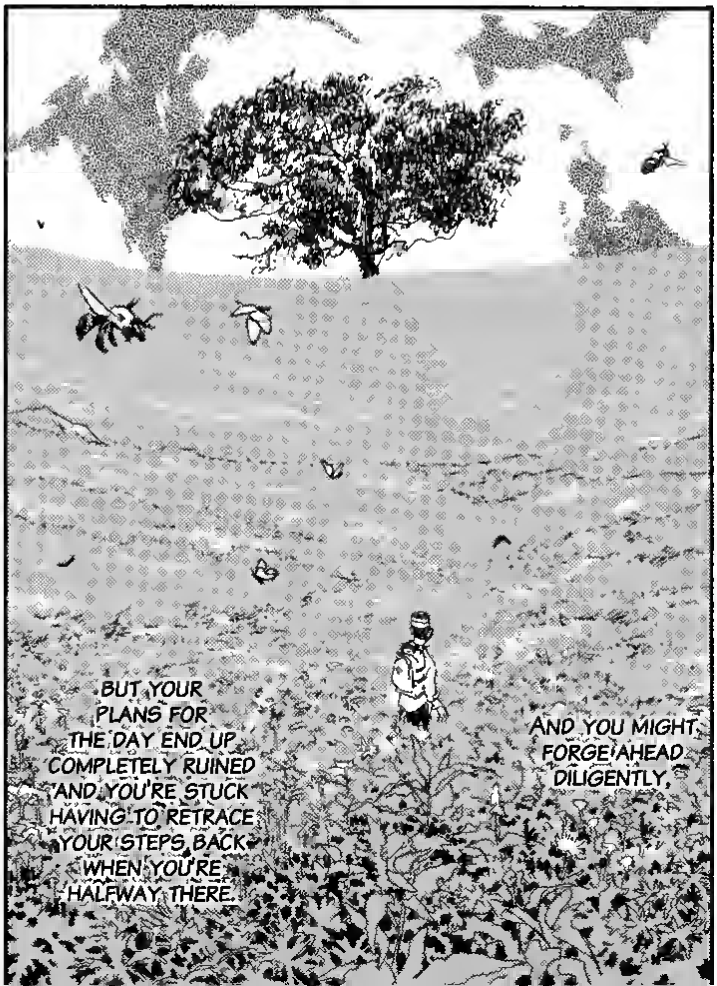
AND YOU FIND YOURSELF SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIELD OF FLOWERS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT EXTEND PAST THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FOREST.

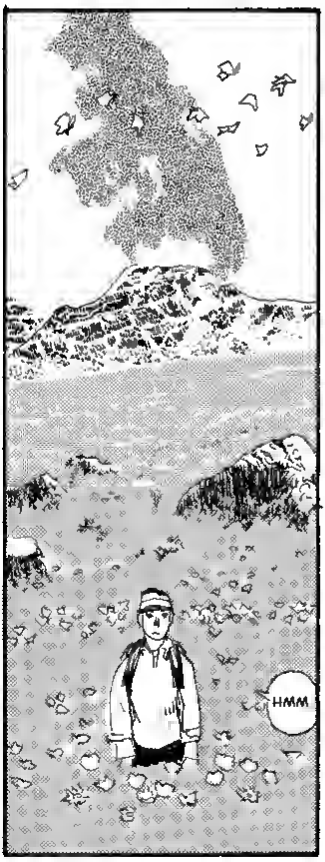
*The boundaries where the forest no longer exist because of the deterioration of regional environmental conditions.

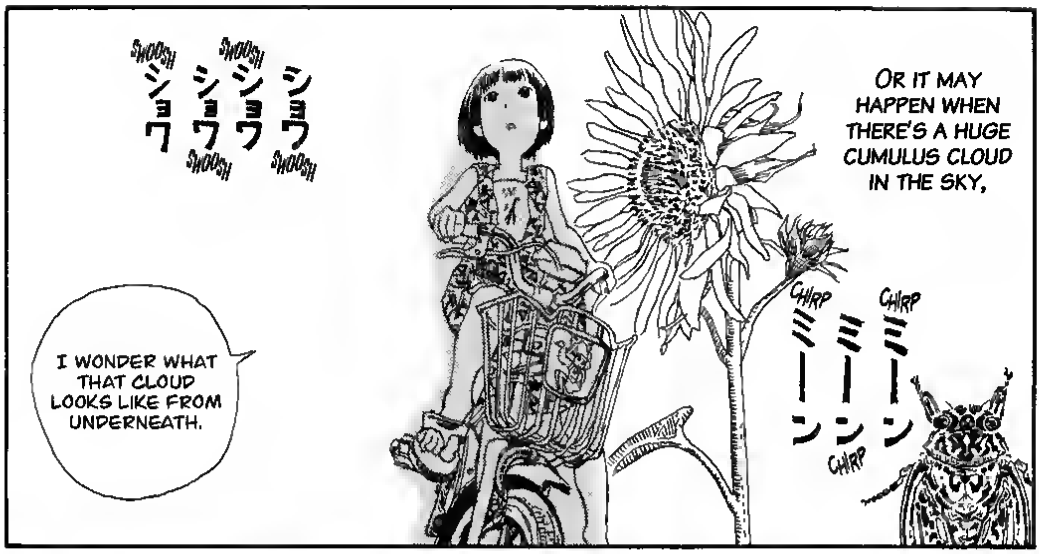


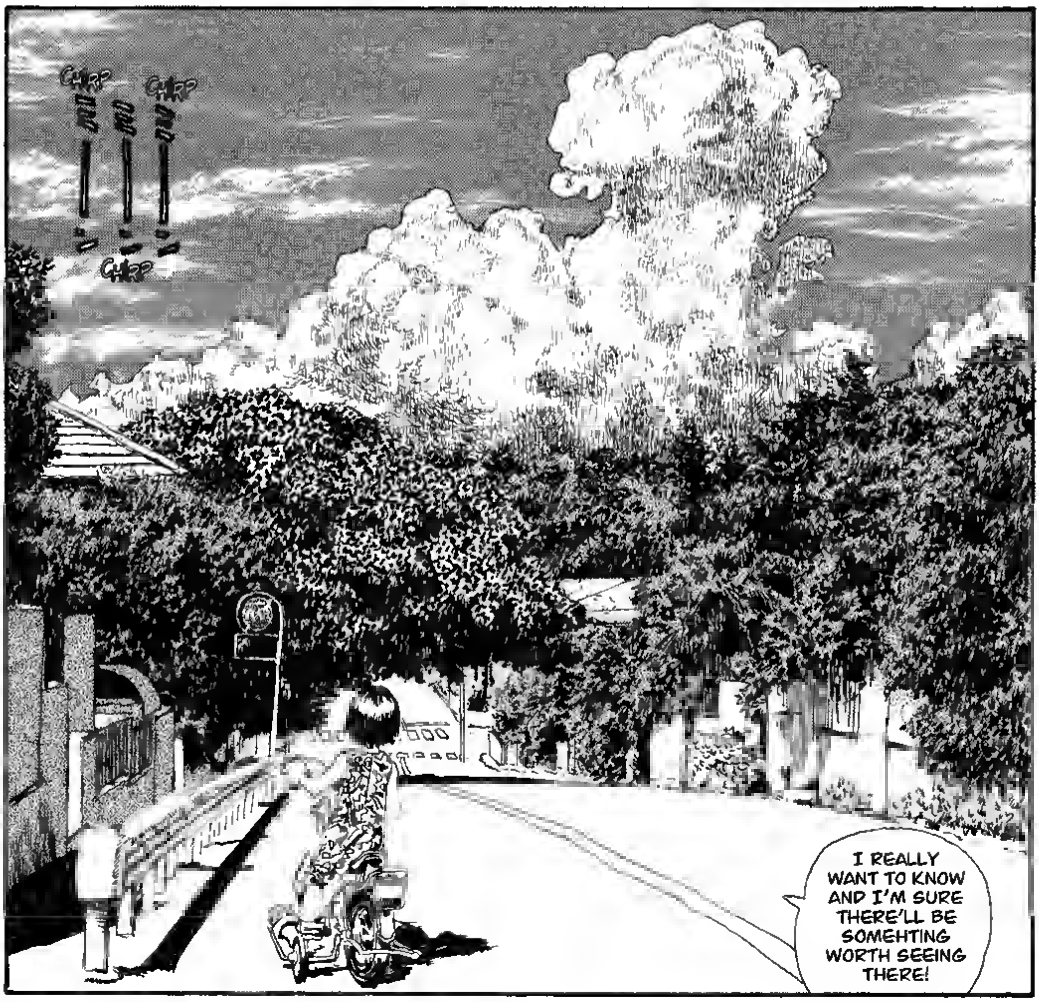


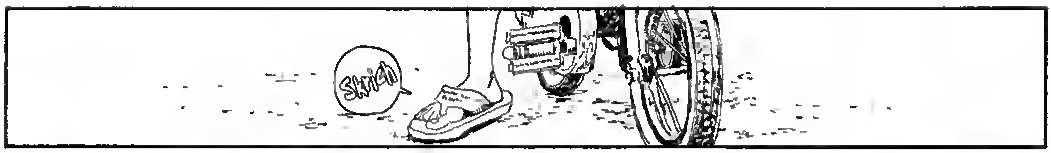

BUT NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU WALK TOWARD THE TREE, IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY CLOSER.


BUT YOUR PLANS FOR THE DAY END UP COMPLETELY RUINED AND YOU'RE STUCK HAVING TO RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK WHEN YOU'RE HALFWAY THERE.
AND YOU MIGHT FORGE AHEAD DILIGENTLY,


HMM

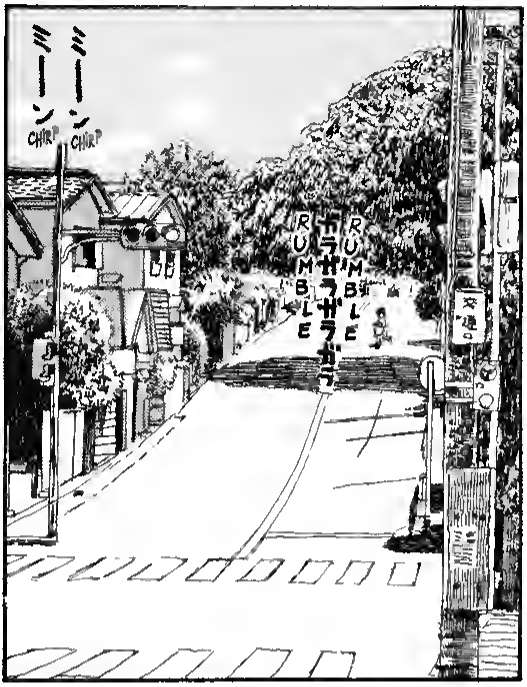

SHOOSH
ショワ
SHOOSH
ショワ
SHOOSH
ショワ
SHOOSH
ショワ
OR IT MAY HAPPEN WHEN THERE'S A HUGE CUMULUS CLOUD IN THE SKY,
CHIRP
ミーン
CHIRP
ミーン
CHIRP
ミーン
I WONDER WHAT THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE FROM UNDERNEATH.

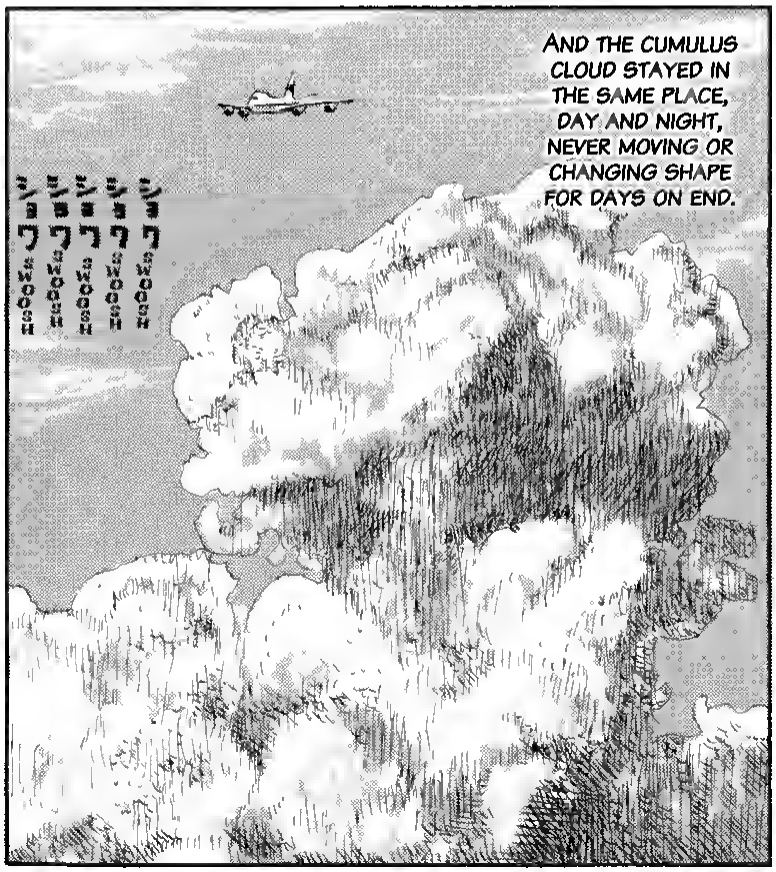

CHIRP
ミーン
CHIRP
ミーン
CHIRP
ミーン
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW AND I'M SURE THERE'LL BE SOMEHTING WORTH SEEING THERE!


SKIDDO

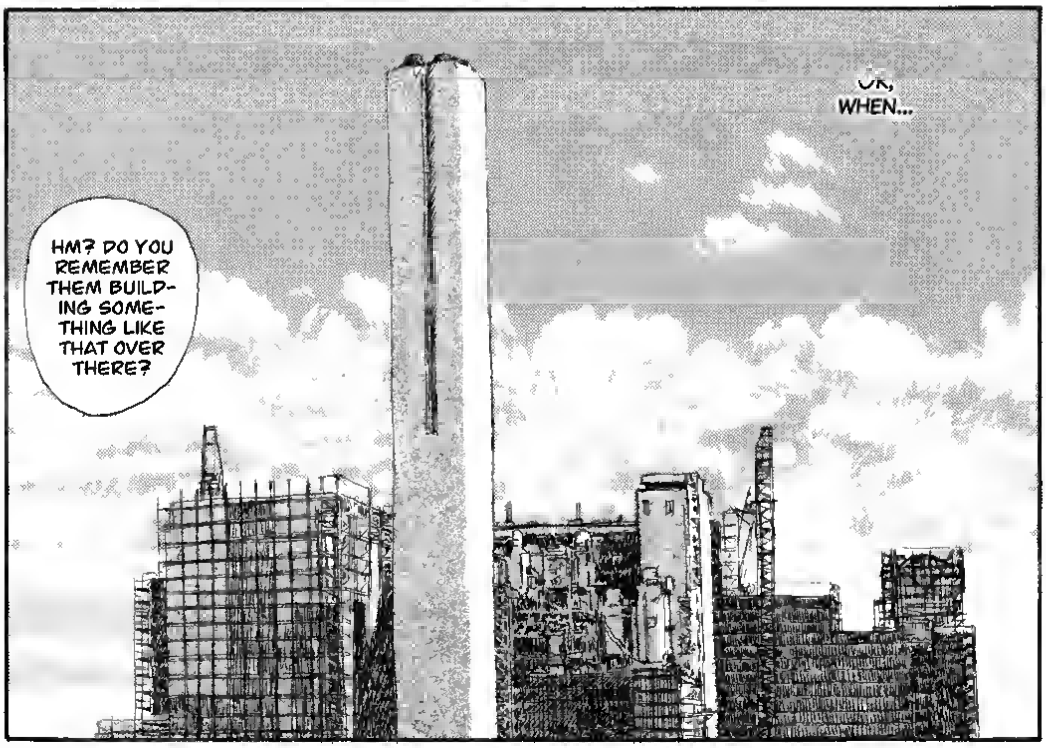
ガイキ
CRASH

SWOOSH
ヨロ


ミーン
CHIRP
ミーン
CHIRP
RUMBLE
ガラガラ
RUMBLE


AND THE CUMULUS CLOUD STAYED IN THE SAME PLACE, DAY AND NIGHT, NEVER MOVING OR CHANGING SHAPE FOR DAYS ON END.
シュワ
SWOOSH
シュワ
SWOOSH
シュワ
SWOOSH
シュワ
SWOOSH
シュワ
SWOOSH

ミーン
CHIRP
ミーン
CHIRP


HM? DO YOU REMEMBER THEM BUILDING SOMETHING LIKE THAT OVER THERE?
OR, WHEN...

I THOUGHT WE SAW IT OVER HERE.
HUH?

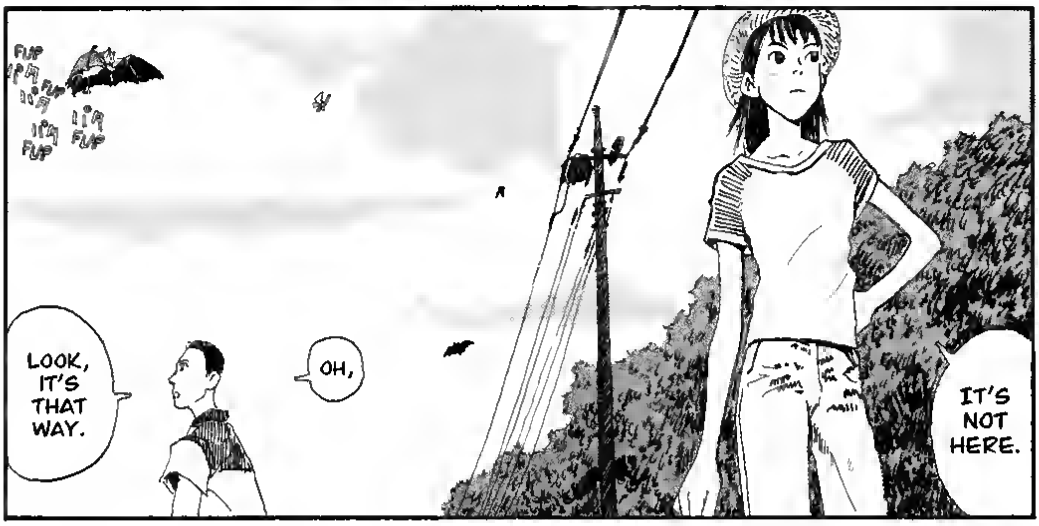
WANNA GO TAKE A LOOK?
SURE.

BUT WASN'T IT SOMEWHERE ELSE BEFORE?
WELL, I'M NOT.
DUNNO, I'M HORRIBLE AT DIRECTIONS

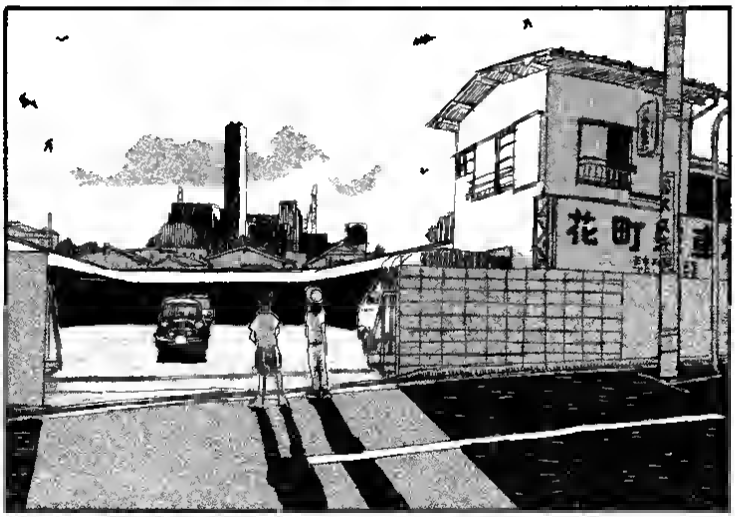
HEY, IT'S OVER THERE.

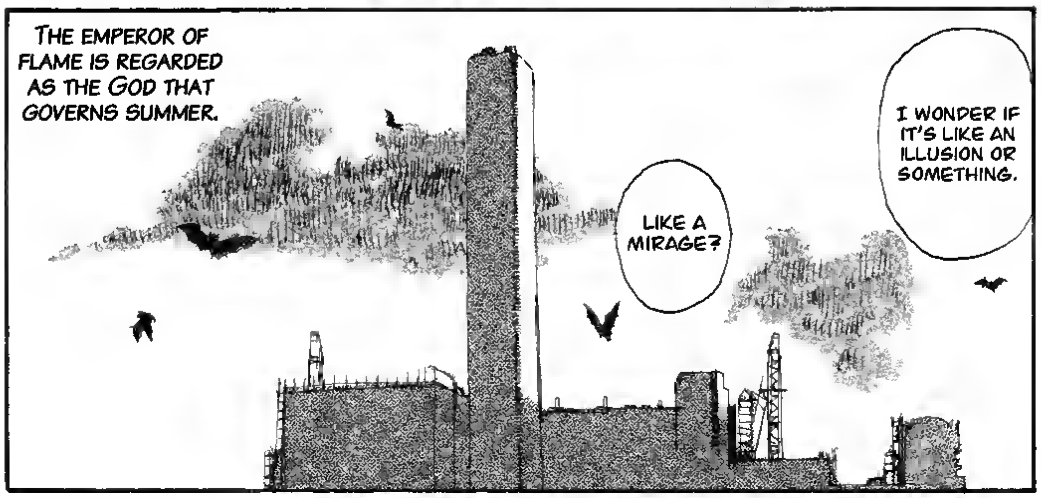
YEAH, I DON'T KNOW.
WAS THERE EVEN ANYWHERE TO BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THAT HERE?

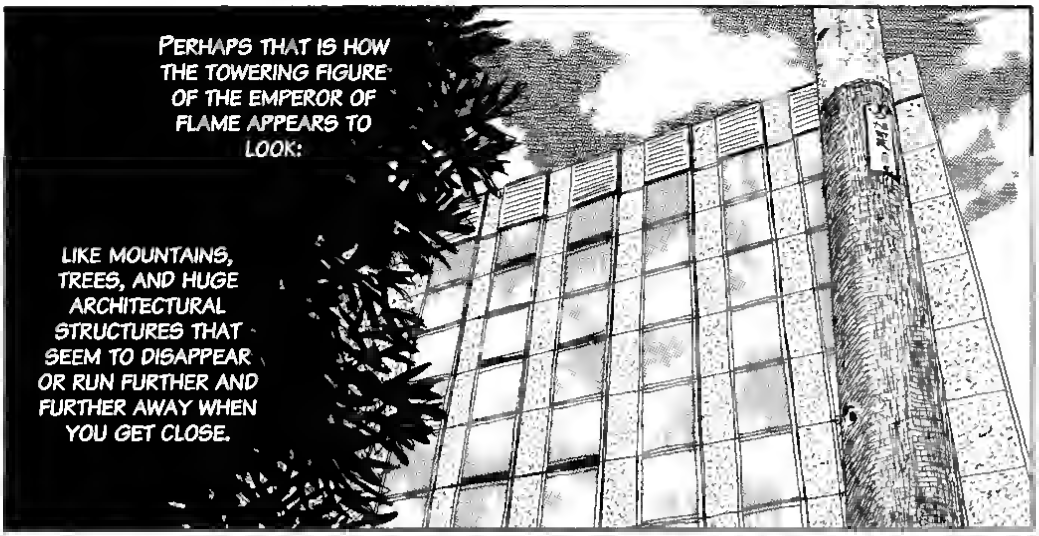
HMM, BUT I'VE NEVER NOTICED ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.

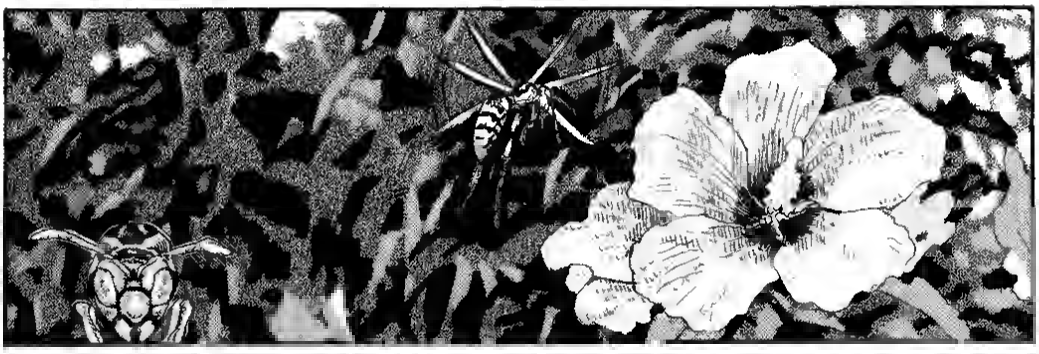

FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP
LOOK, IT'S THAT WAY.
OH,
IT'S NOT HERE.

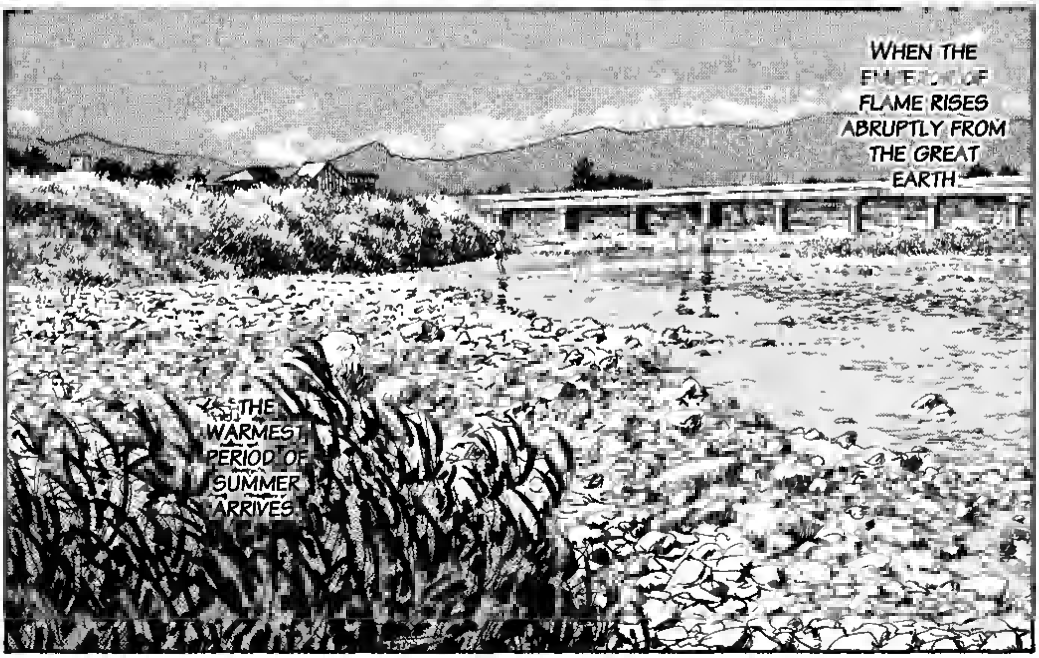
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. WE CAME FROM OVER THERE.
YUP.


花町


THE EMPEROR OF FLAME IS REGARDED AS THE GOD THAT GOVERNS SUMMER.
LIKE A MIRAGE?
I WONDER IF IT'S LIKE AN ILLUSION OR SOMETHING.


PERHAPS THAT IS HOW THE TOWERING FIGURE OF THE EMPEROR OF FLAME APPEARS TO LOOK:
LIKE MOUNTAINS, TREES, AND HUGE ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURES THAT SEEM TO DISAPPEAR OR RUN FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY WHEN YOU GET CLOSE.




WHEN THE EMPEROR OF FLAME RISES ABRUPTLY FROM THE GREAT EARTH
THE WARMEST PERIOD OF SUMMER ARRIVES

Chapter 30

BECOMING THE WIND

BWOOOOOSH

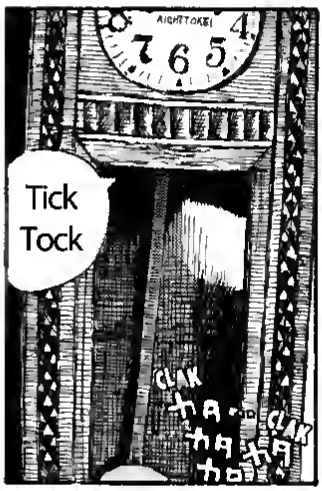
ビュウウウウウ

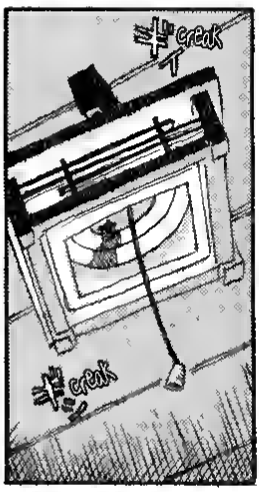
ザザザザ...

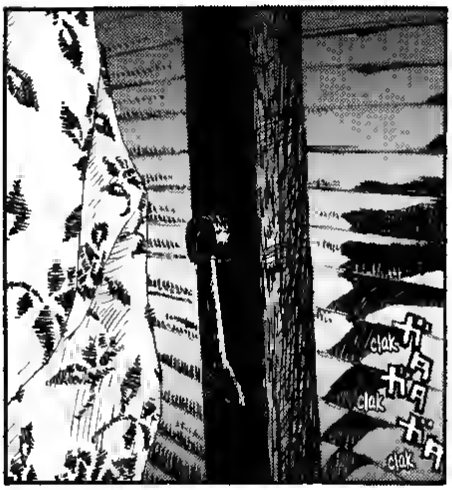
RUSTLE...

ROOOAR
ゴォォォォ

I'm going
to be home
late today.
-Mom


Tick
Tock
CLAK
CLAK

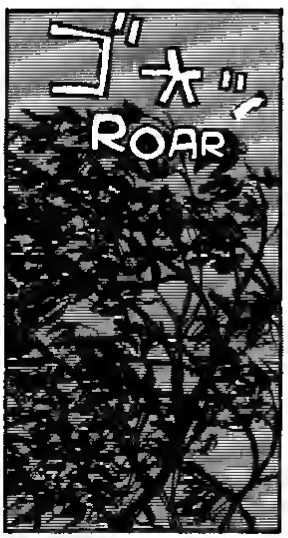

creak
creak


clak
clak
clak

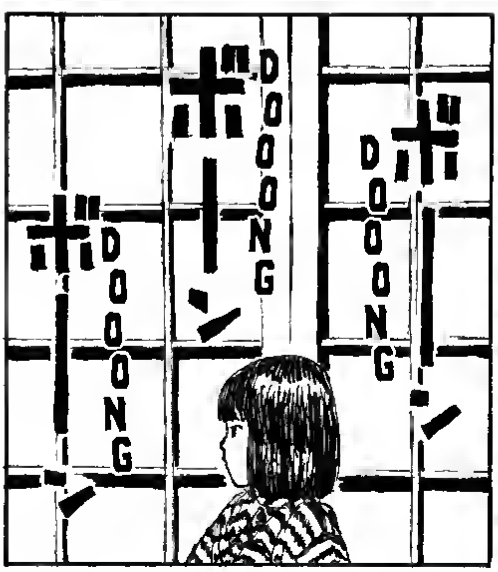
I START TO WORRY THAT EVERYTHING ELSE HAS BEEN BLOWN AWAY AND THAT THIS IS THE ONLY ROOM THAT HAS BEEN LEFT STANDING.

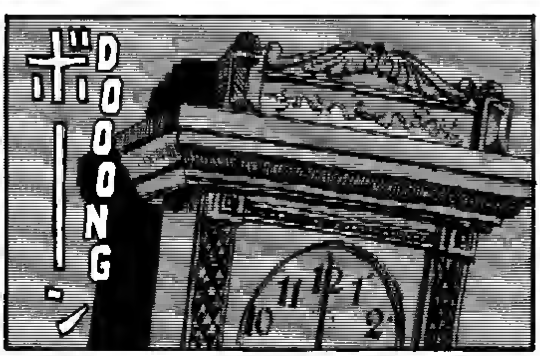
WHEN I'M ALONE ON NIGHTS THAT THE WIND IS STRONG.

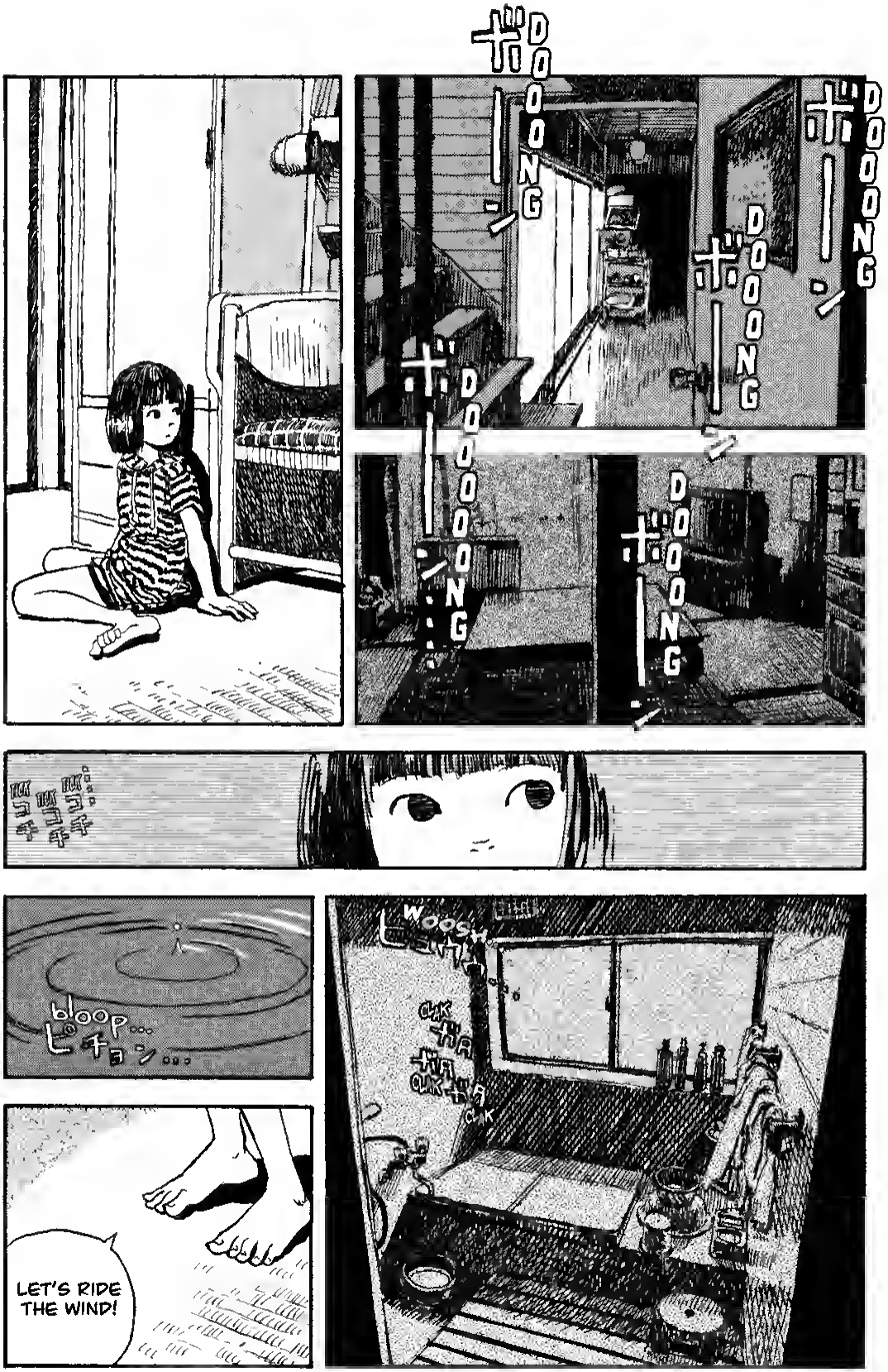
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
DOOM

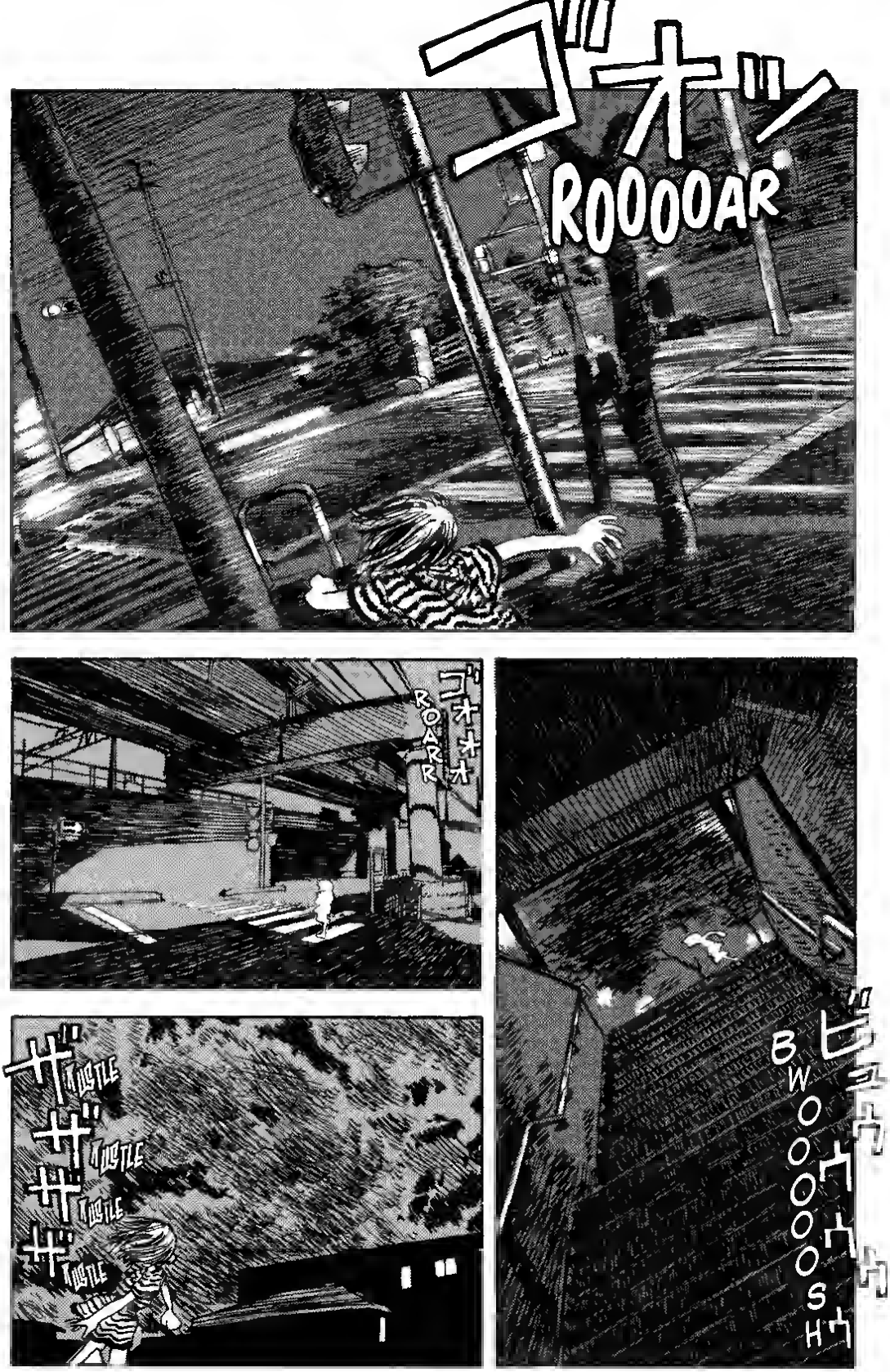

ゴォ
ROAR

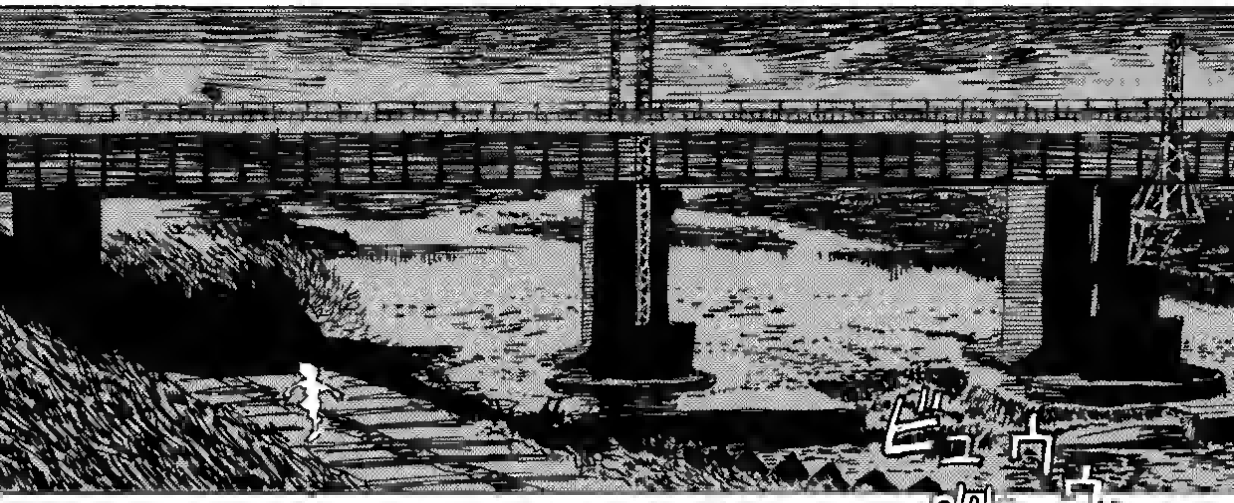
ビュウウウウ
BWOOOOSH






ボーン
DOOONG
ボーン
DOOONG
ボーン
DOOONG
ボーン
DOOONG
ボーン
DOOONG
TICK
TICK
TICK
ゴチ
ゴチ
ゴチ
WOOSH
CLAK
ガタ
ガタ
CLAK
ガタ
CLAK
bloop...
ピチョン...
LET'S RIDE THE WIND!


ゴオッ
ROOOOAR
ゴオオオ
ROARR
ビュウウウウ
BWOOOOOOSH
ザザザザ
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

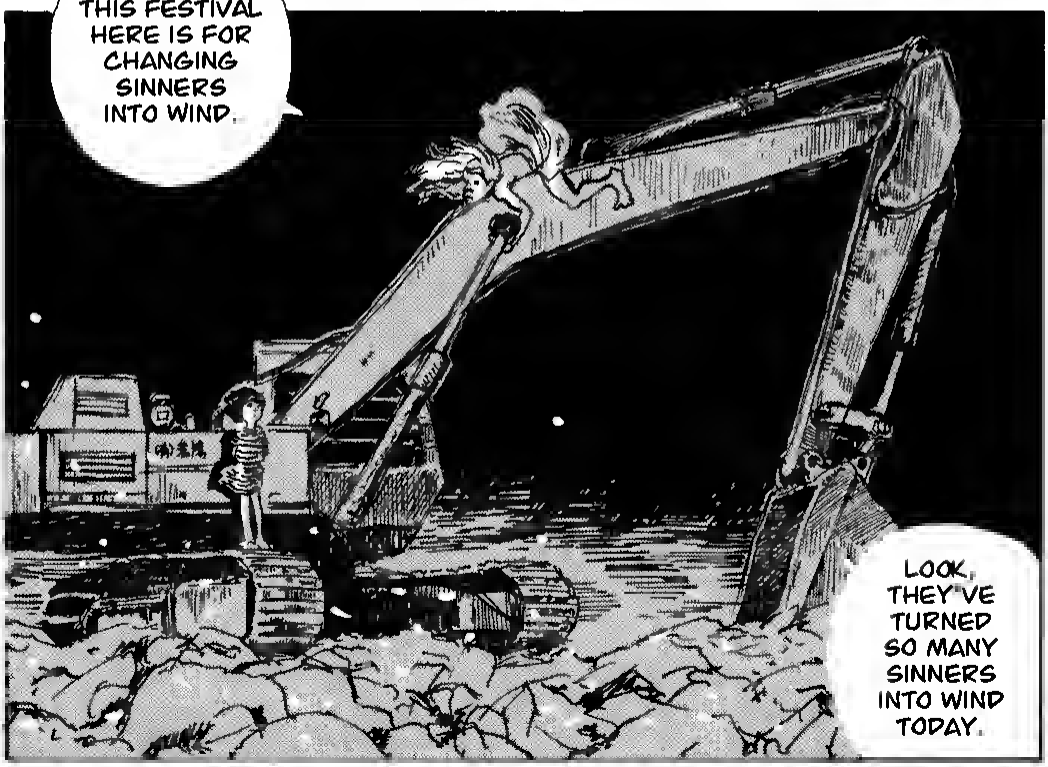

ヒュウウウ

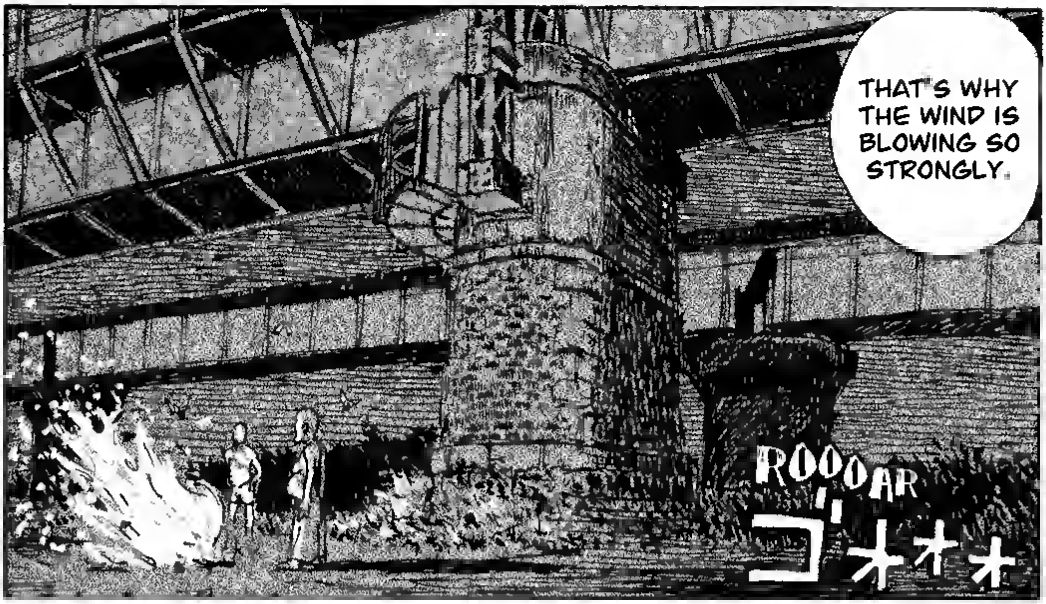
BWOOOSHH

ゴ★★★★
ROAAAR

ビュウウウウウ…
BWOOOOSH…

ゴォォォォ…
ROOOAR…


THIS FESTIVAL HERE IS FOR CHANGING SINNERS INTO WIND.
LOOK, THEY'VE TURNED SO MANY SINNERS INTO WIND TODAY.

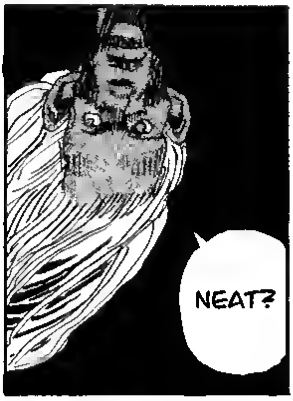

THAT'S WHY THE WIND IS BLOWING SO STRONGLY.
ROOOAR
ゴオオオ

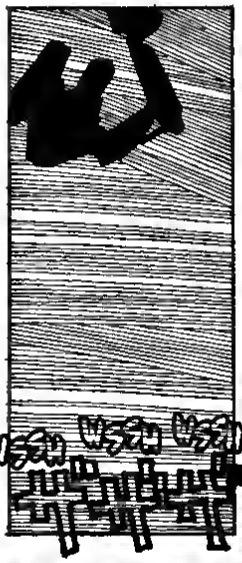
I WANNA TRY BEING IT...
WIND.

clap
clap
clap
clap
clap

BECAUSE IF YOU WERE LIKE THE WIND YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
AND YOU COULD FLY AROUND IN THE SKY.
IT SEEMS PRETTY NEAT.

WHOOSH


NEAT?

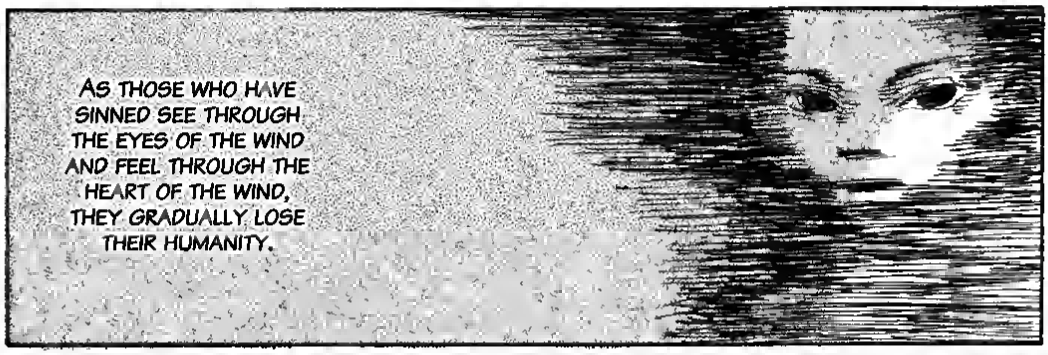

WSSH WSSH WSSH

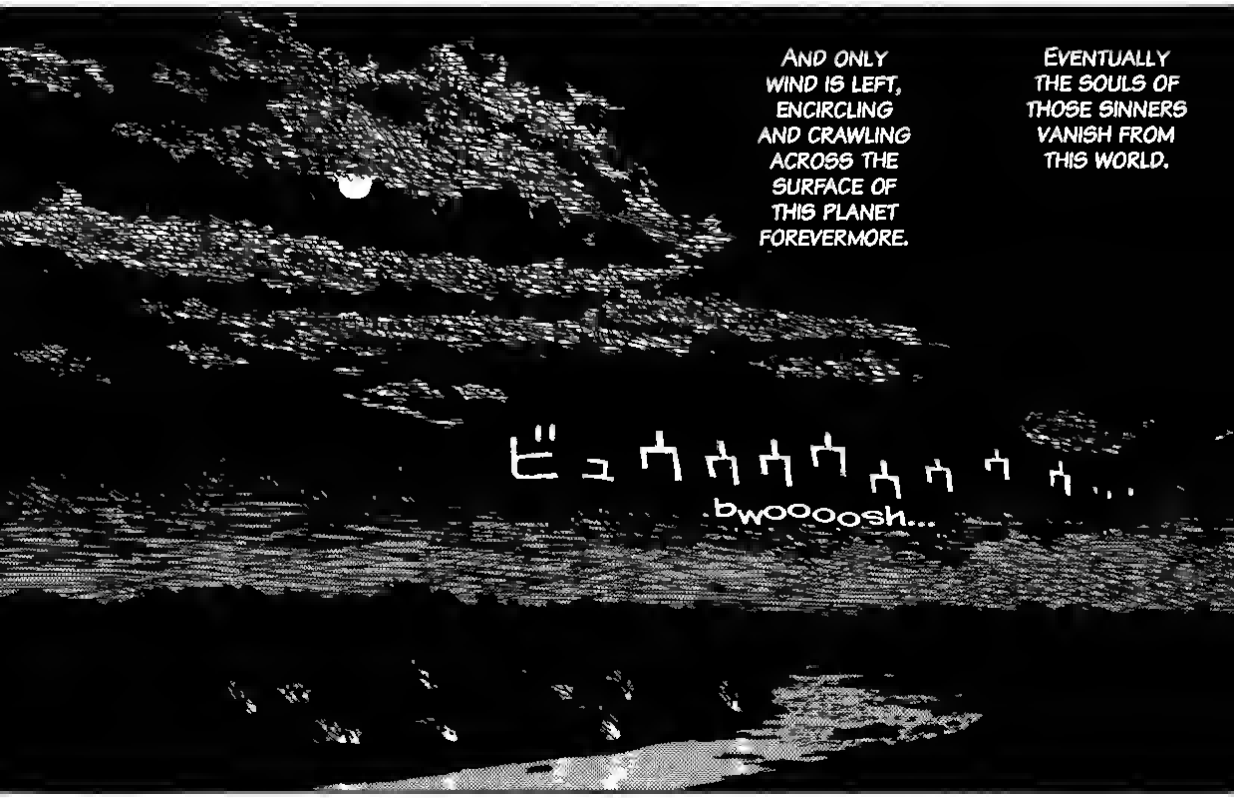
WSSH WSSH WSSH WSSH WSSH WSSH

WSSH

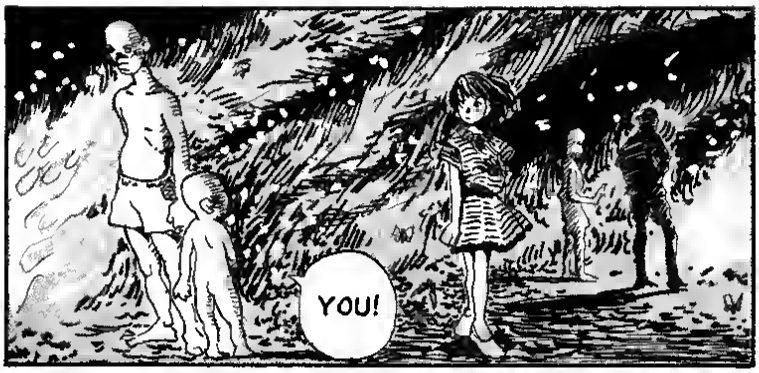
ドォォォォォォ
ROOOOAR
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU,

AT FIRST IT MAY BE QUITE FUN.
BUT IF THAT WERE THE CASE, IT WOULD BE NO WAY TO ATONE FOR A SIN.

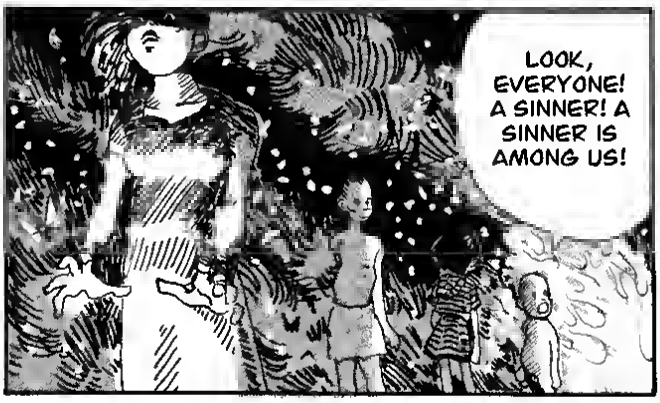

AS THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE WIND AND FEEL THROUGH THE HEART OF THE WIND, THEY GRADUALLY LOSE THEIR HUMANITY.

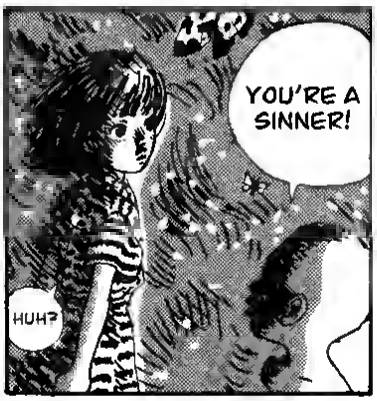

AND ONLY WIND IS LEFT, ENCIRCLING AND CRAWLING ACROSS THE SURFACE OF THIS PLANET FOREVERMORE.
EVENTUALLY THE SOULS OF THOSE SINNERS VANISH FROM THIS WORLD.
ビュウウウウウウウウ...
bwoooosh...

bwoooosh
ビュウウウ


YOU!

!


LOOK, EVERYONE! A SINNER! A SINNER IS AMONG US!

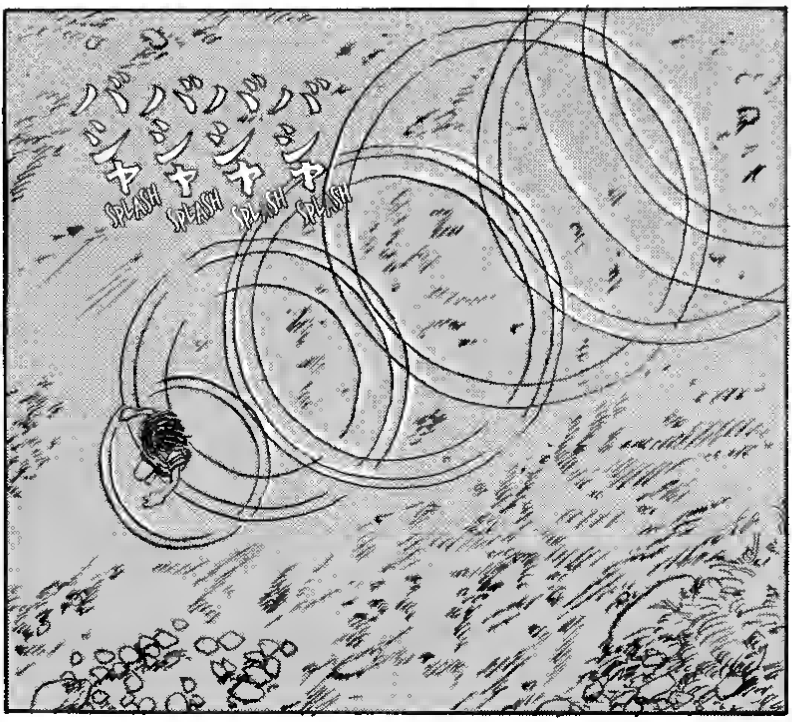

YOU'RE A SINNER!
HUH?

TUSTLE
TUSTLE
TUSTLE
TUSTLE
TUSTLE
TUSTLE
TUSTLE
TUSTLE

SPLASH
パシャッ
SPLASH
パシャッ

ROAR
ゴオッ

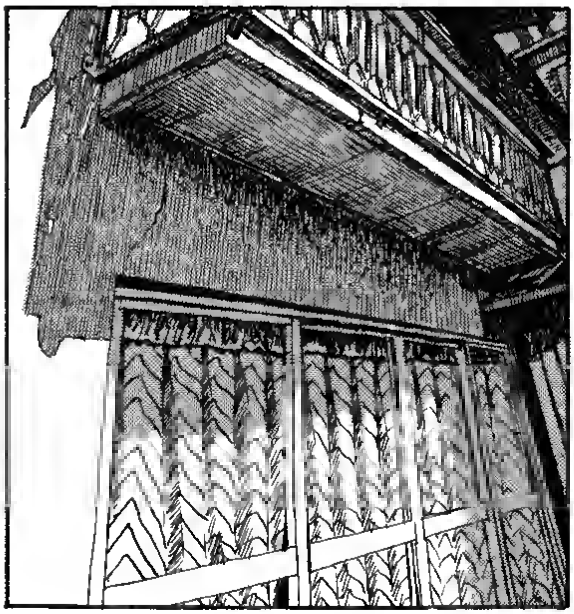
CATCH HER!

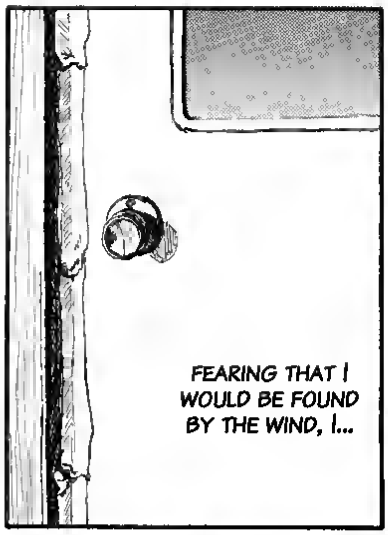

パシャパシャパシャパシャ
SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH

ROOOAR
ドオオオ
CATCH HER!
TURN HER INTO WIND!
SEND THE WIND AFTER HER!
DON'T LET HER GET AWAY!

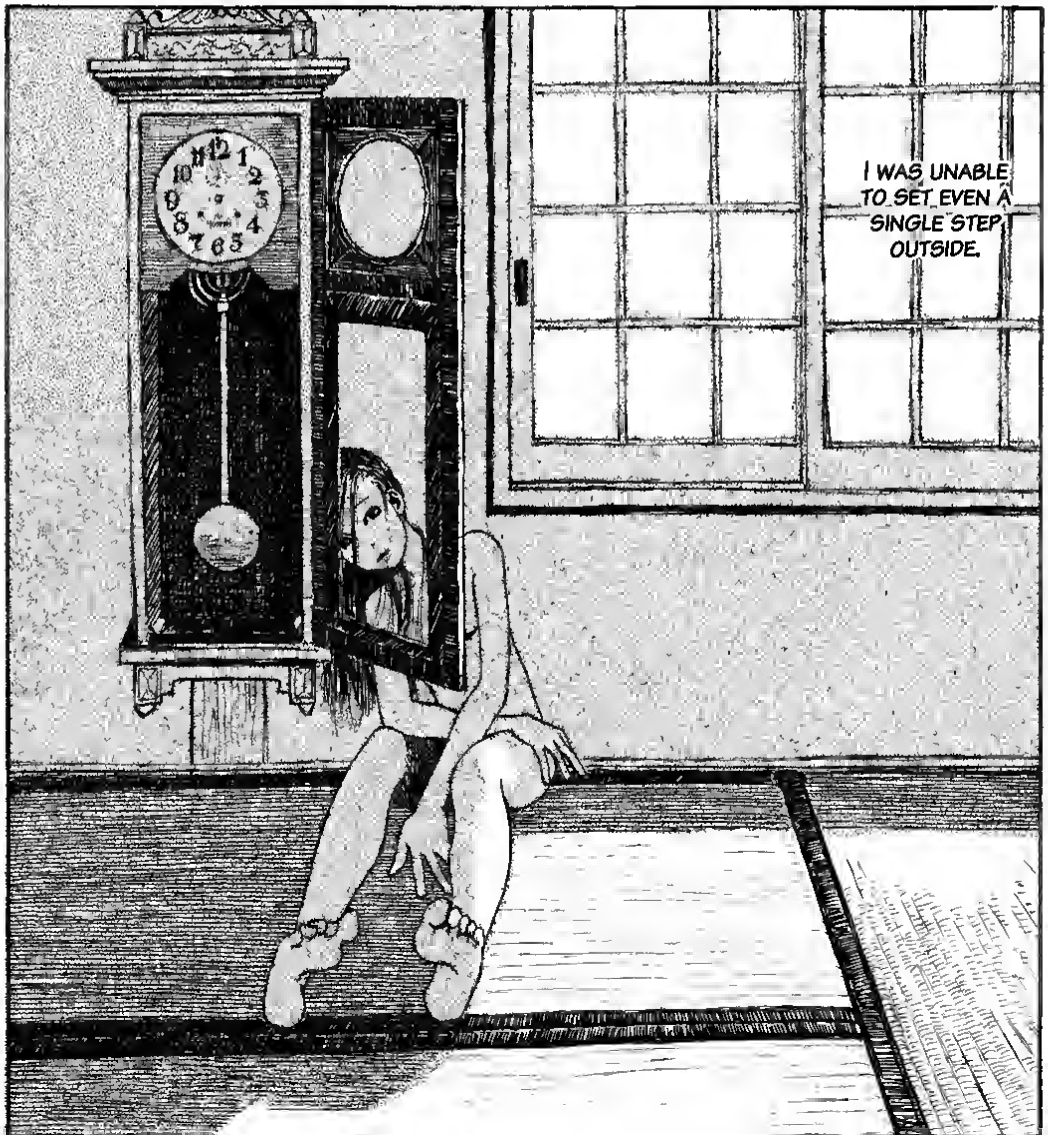
ROOOOAR
ゴオオオオオ

WHOOOOOOOOSH...
ヒュウウウ ウ ウウウ....




FEARING THAT I WOULD BE FOUND BY THE WIND, I...

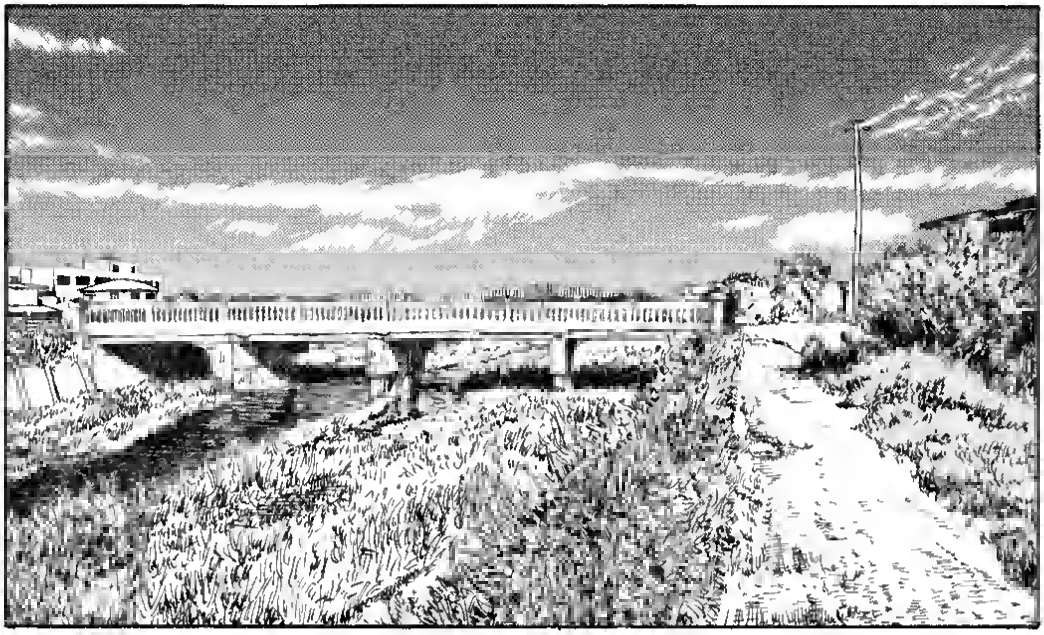
EVER SINCE THEN...

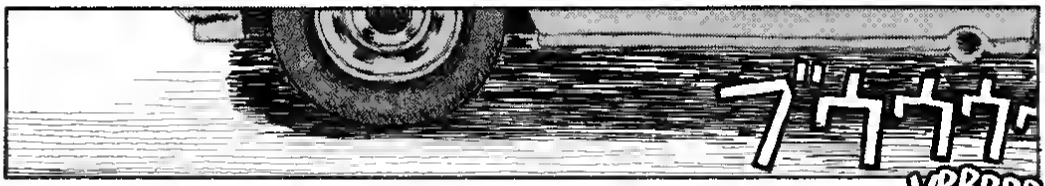

I WAS UNABLE TO SET EVEN A SINGLE STEP OUTSIDE.

ザザザザザ
wssh wssh wssh wssh wssh

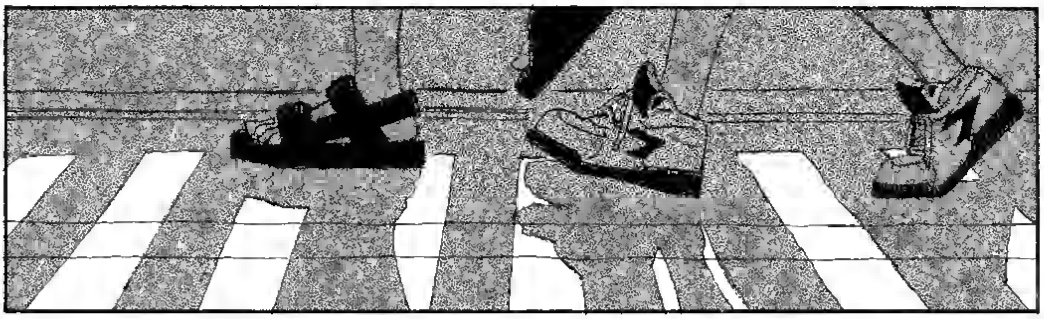
Chapter 31

ASCENSION OF THE CRIMSON DRAGON



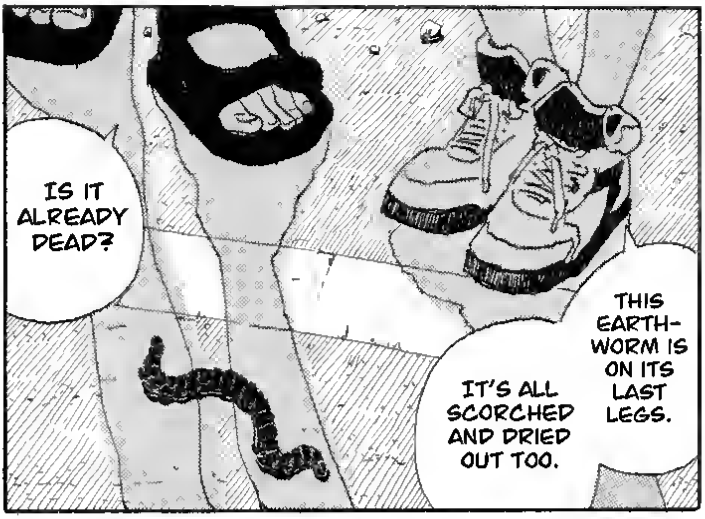

ブウウウ
VRRRRR

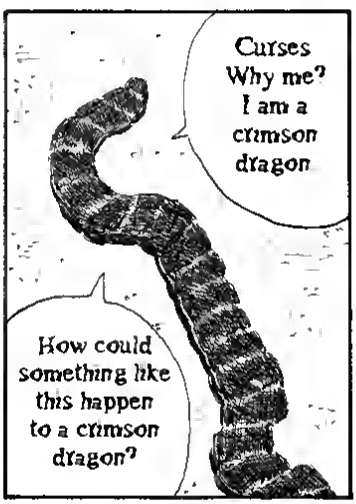
SCREEE

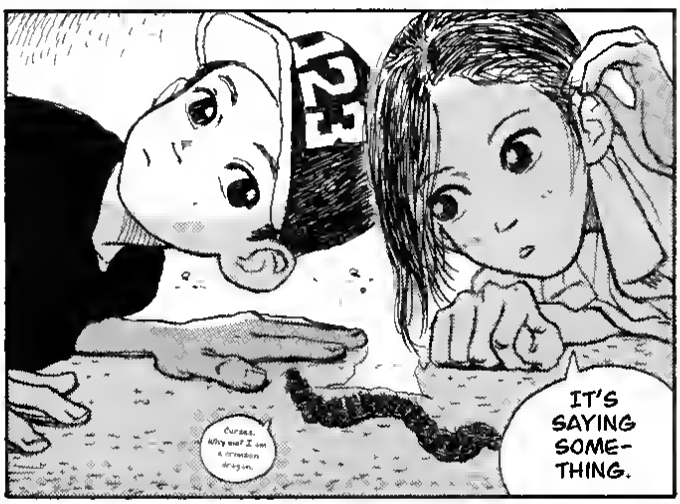


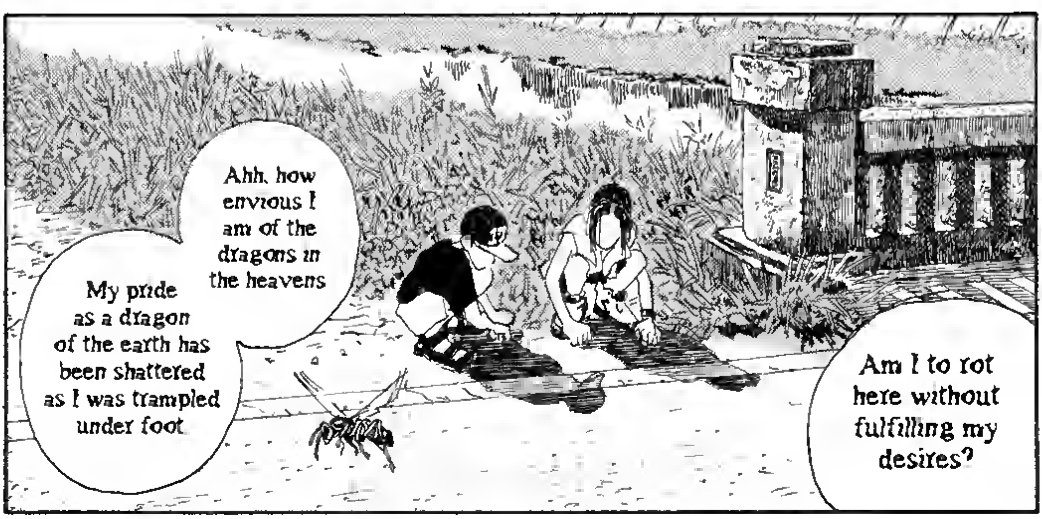
OH!
123

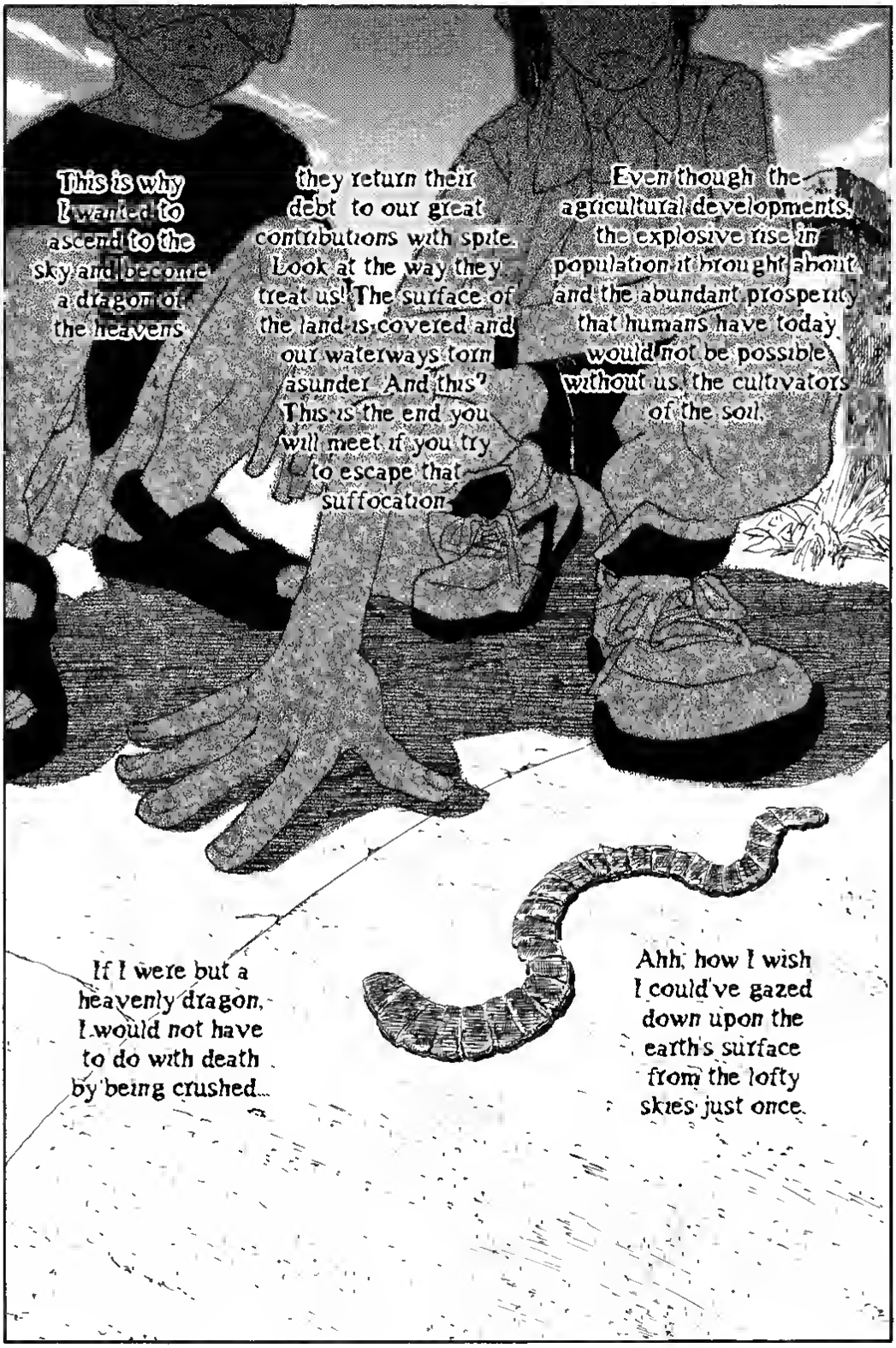
12
SHOULD WE SOAK IT IN SOME WATER?
SHH! HOLD ON.


IS IT ALREADY DEAD?
THIS EARTH-WORM IS ON ITS LAST LEGS.
IT'S ALL SCORCHED AND DRIED OUT TOO.

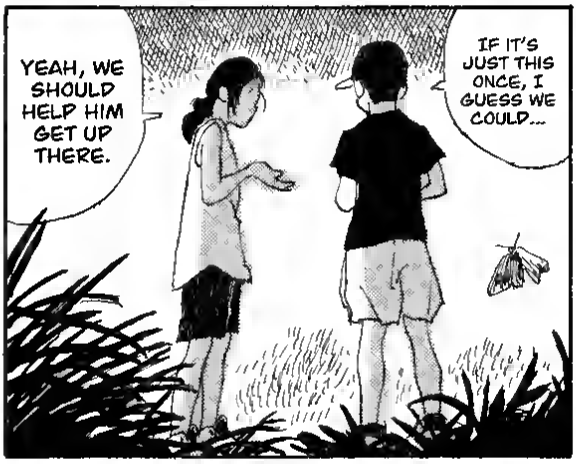

Curses Why me? I am a crimson dragon
How could something like this happen to a crimson dragon?

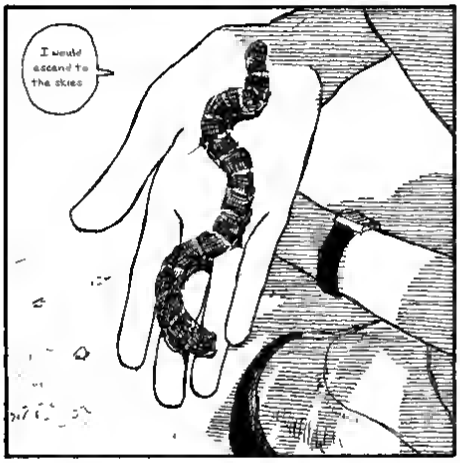

123
Curses. Why me? I am a crimson dragon.
IT'S SAYING SOME-THING.

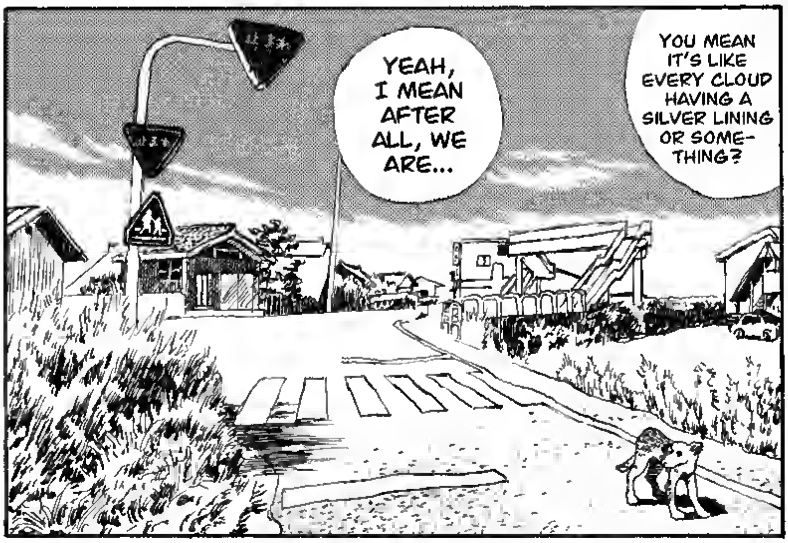

Ahh, how envious I am of the dragons in the heavens
My pride as a dragon of the earth has been shattered as I was trampled under foot
Am I to rot here without fulfilling my desires?

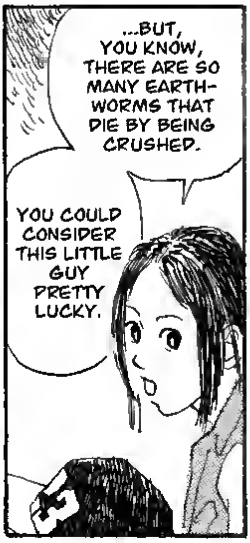

This is why I wanted to ascend to the sky and become a dragon of the heavens.
they return their debt to our great contributions with spite. Look at the way they treat us! The surface of the land is covered and our waterways torn asunder. And this? This is the end you will meet if you try to escape that suffocation.
Even though the agricultural developments, the explosive rise in population it brought about and the abundant prosperity that humans have today would not be possible without us, the cultivators of the soil.
If I were but a heavenly dragon, I would not have to do with death by being crushed...
Ahh, how I wish I could've gazed down upon the earth's surface from the lofty skies just once.

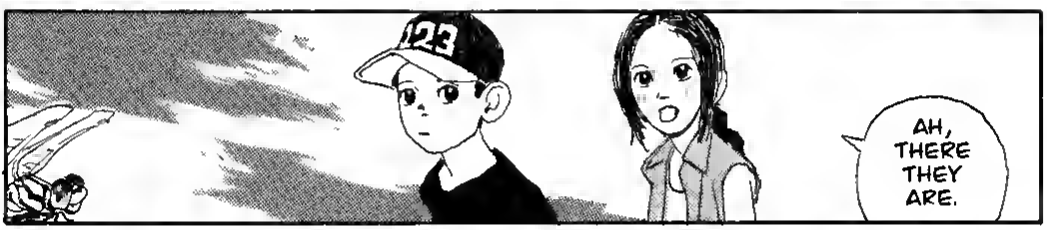
I would ascend to the skies...

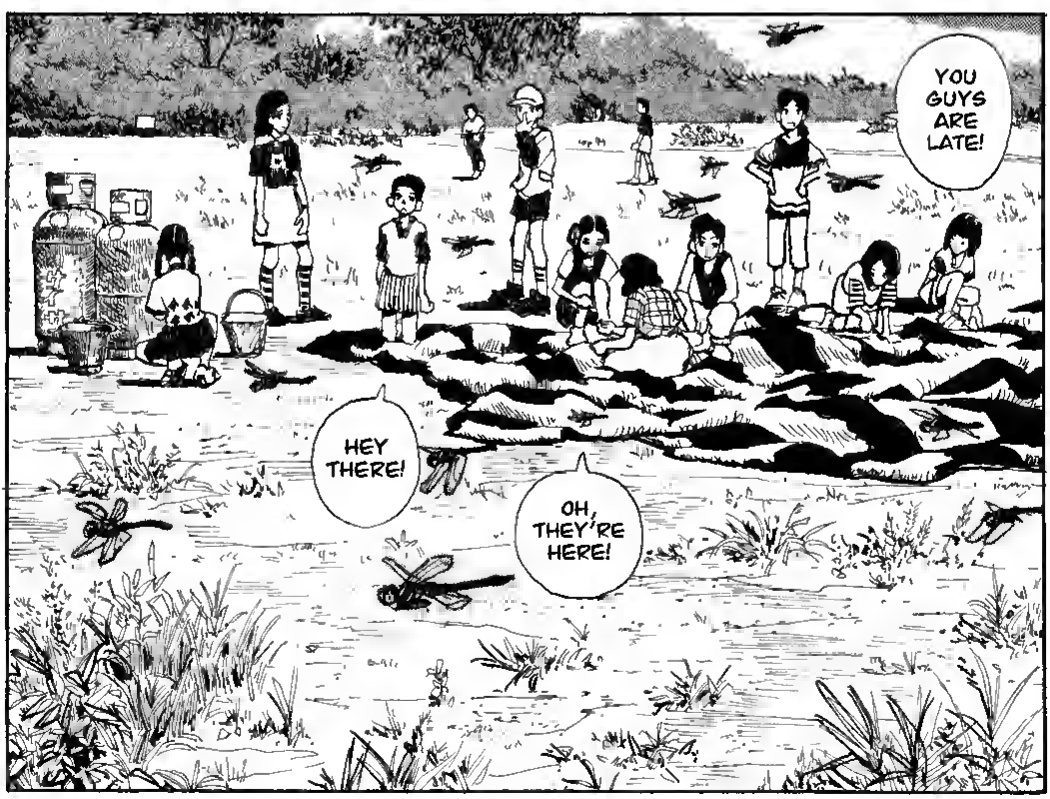


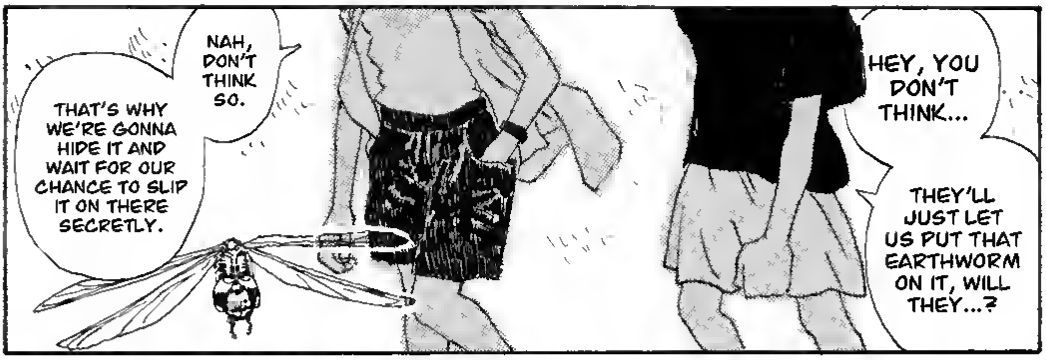


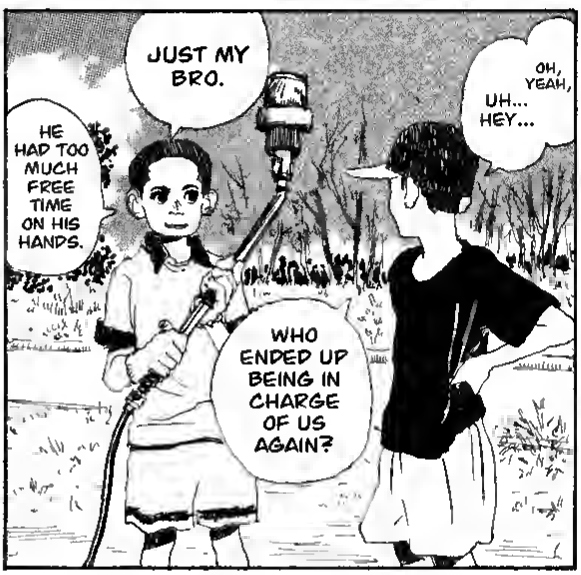


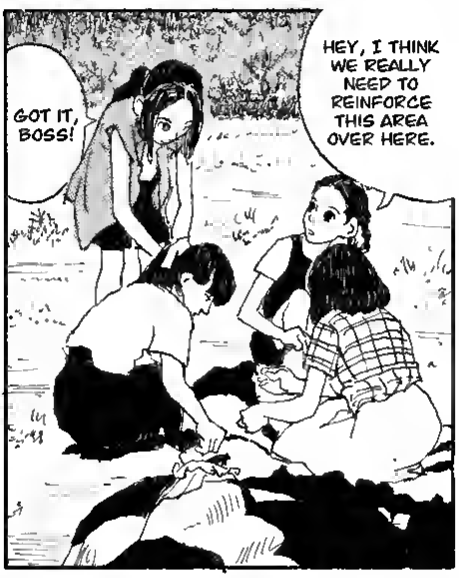


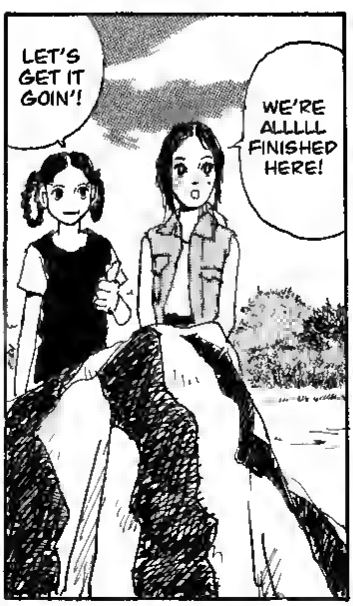

123
AH, THERE THEY ARE.

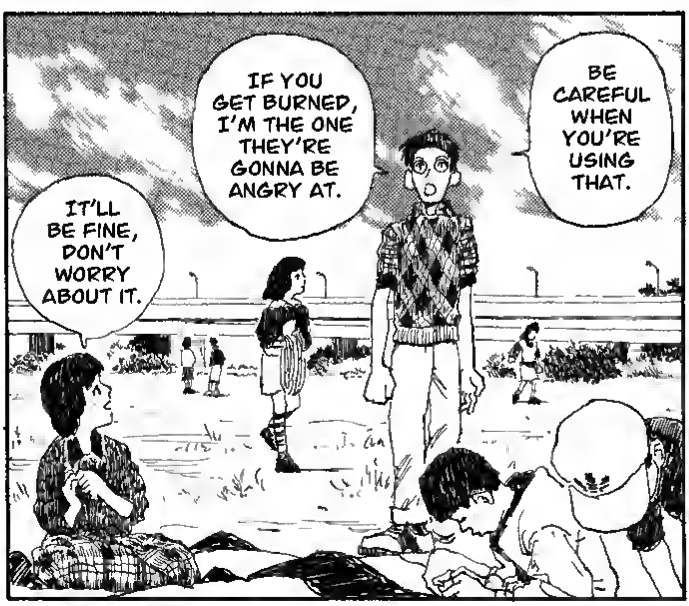

YOU GUYS ARE LATE!
HEY THERE!
OH, THEY'RE HERE!

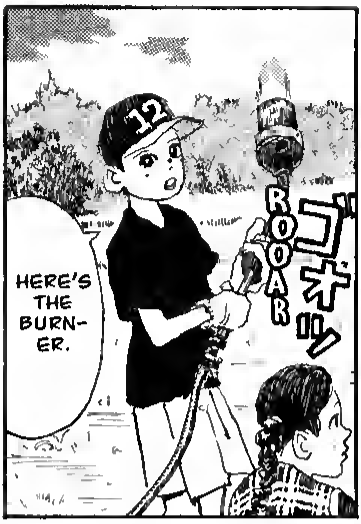

HEY, YOU DON'T THINK...
NAH, DON'T THINK SO.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GONNA HIDE IT AND WAIT FOR OUR CHANCE TO SLIP IT ON THERE SECRETLY.
THEY'LL JUST LET US PUT THAT EARTHWORM ON IT, WILL THEY...?


JUST MY BRO.
OH, YEAH, UH... HEY...
HE HAD TOO MUCH FREE TIME ON HIS HANDS.
WHO ENDED UP BEING IN CHARGE OF US AGAIN?

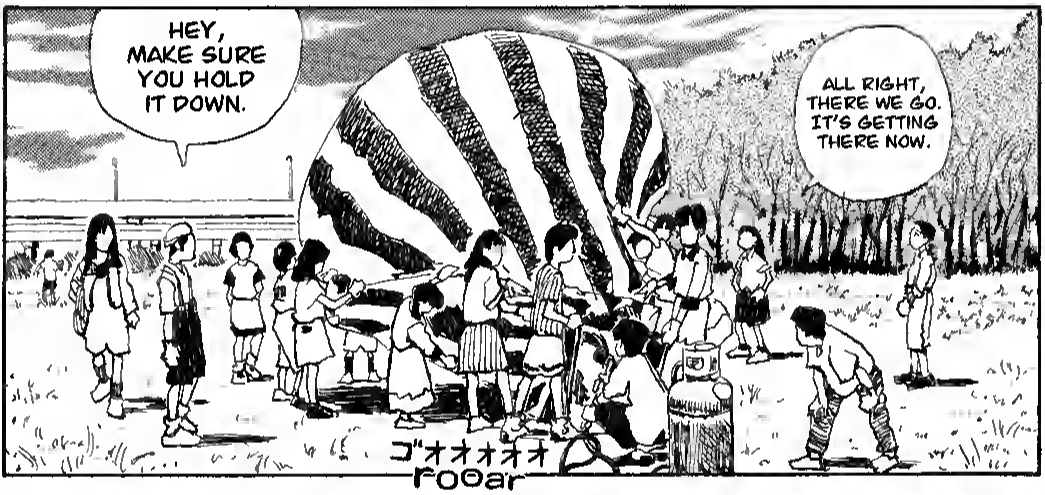

HEY, I THINK WE REALLY NEED TO REINFORCE THIS AREA OVER HERE.
GOT IT, BOSS!

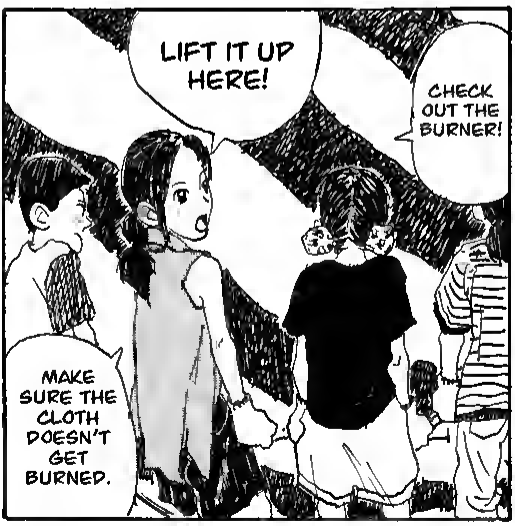

LET'S GET IT GOIN'!
WE'RE ALLLLL FINISHED HERE!


IF YOU GET BURNED, I'M THE ONE THEY'RE GONNA BE ANGRY AT.
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU'RE USING THAT.
IT'LL BE FINE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.


HERE'S THE BURNER.
ROOAR
ゴオ!!

I KNOW, I KNOW!
IF YOU DON'T DO IT PROPERLY, YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET THE AIR INSIDE.
PUFF
PUFF


HEY, MAKE SURE YOU HOLD IT DOWN.
ALL RIGHT, THERE WE GO. IT'S GETTING THERE NOW.
ゴオオオオオ
roOar


LIFT IT UP HERE!
CHECK OUT THE BURNER!
MAKE SURE THE CLOTH DOESN'T GET BURNED.

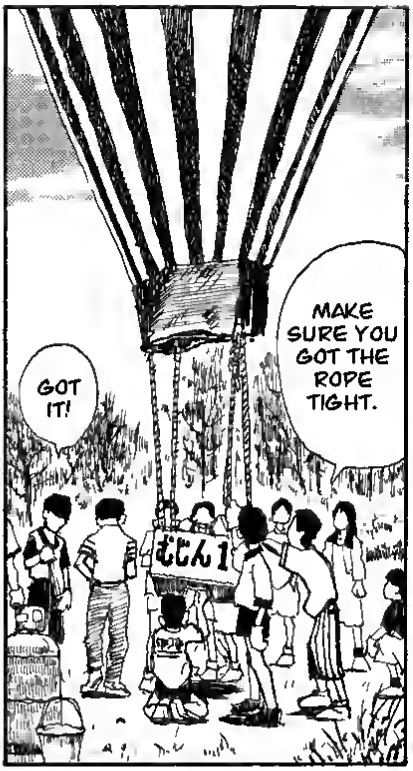
ゴオオオ
ROOOARR

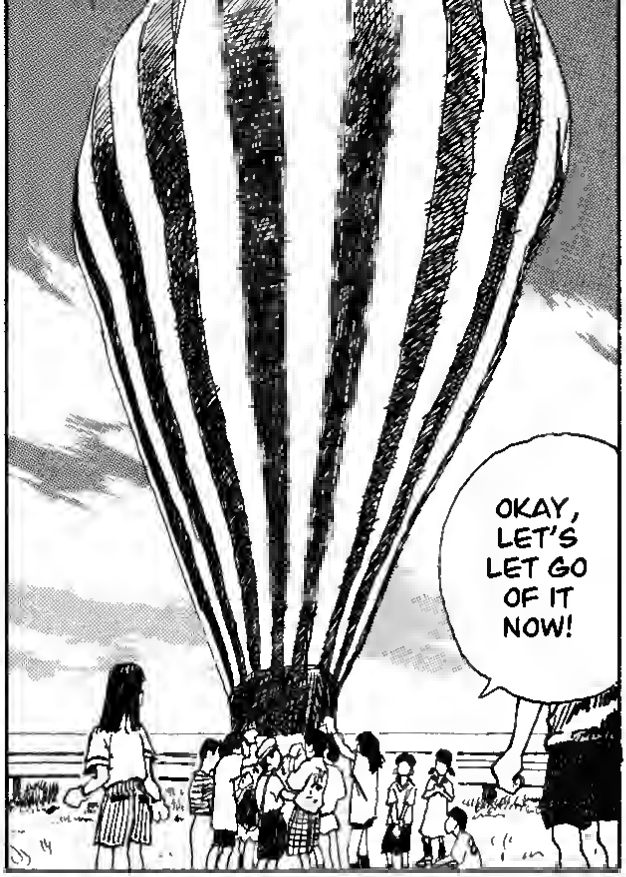
AND GET THE BURNER UNDER THERE.

OKAY, KEEP FEEDING THE CLOTH SLOWLY.

ゴオオオオ

ROOOOAR


GOT IT!
MAKE SURE YOU GOT THE ROPE TIGHT.
むじん1


OKAY, LET'S LET GO OF IT NOW!

Slowly now, slowly

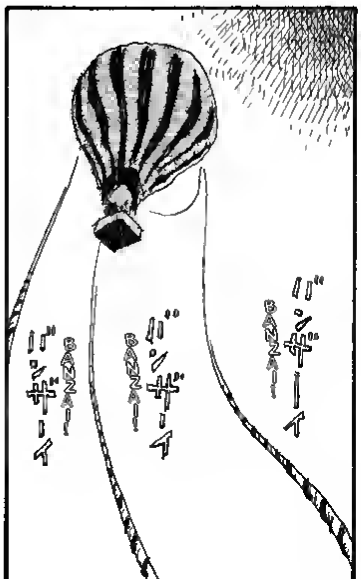
ひょい
SLIP

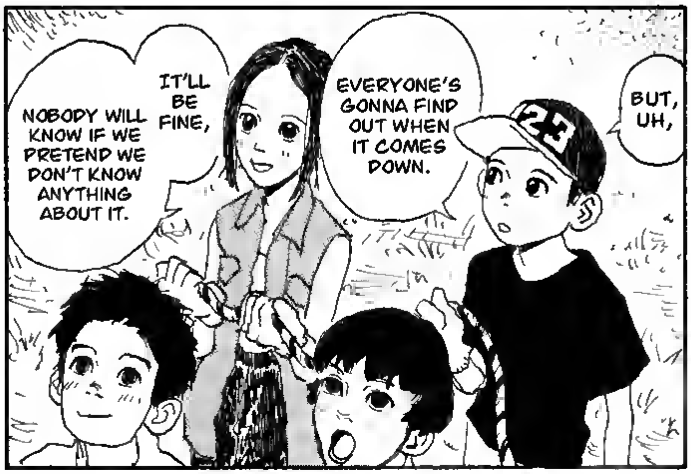
...

IT'S FLYING!!

HOW'D IT GO?

FINE.





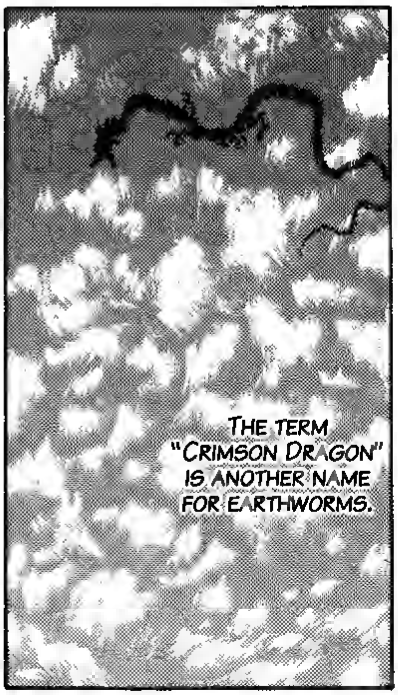
RUSTLE...
FLUTTER...
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WSSH
WSSH
WSSH
WSSH
WSSH
WSSH
Ah!
GRIP
WHOA!
ROAAAAR
THE ROPE!
I CAN'T HOLD ON TO IT!
DON'T LET GO!!
OWW WW!

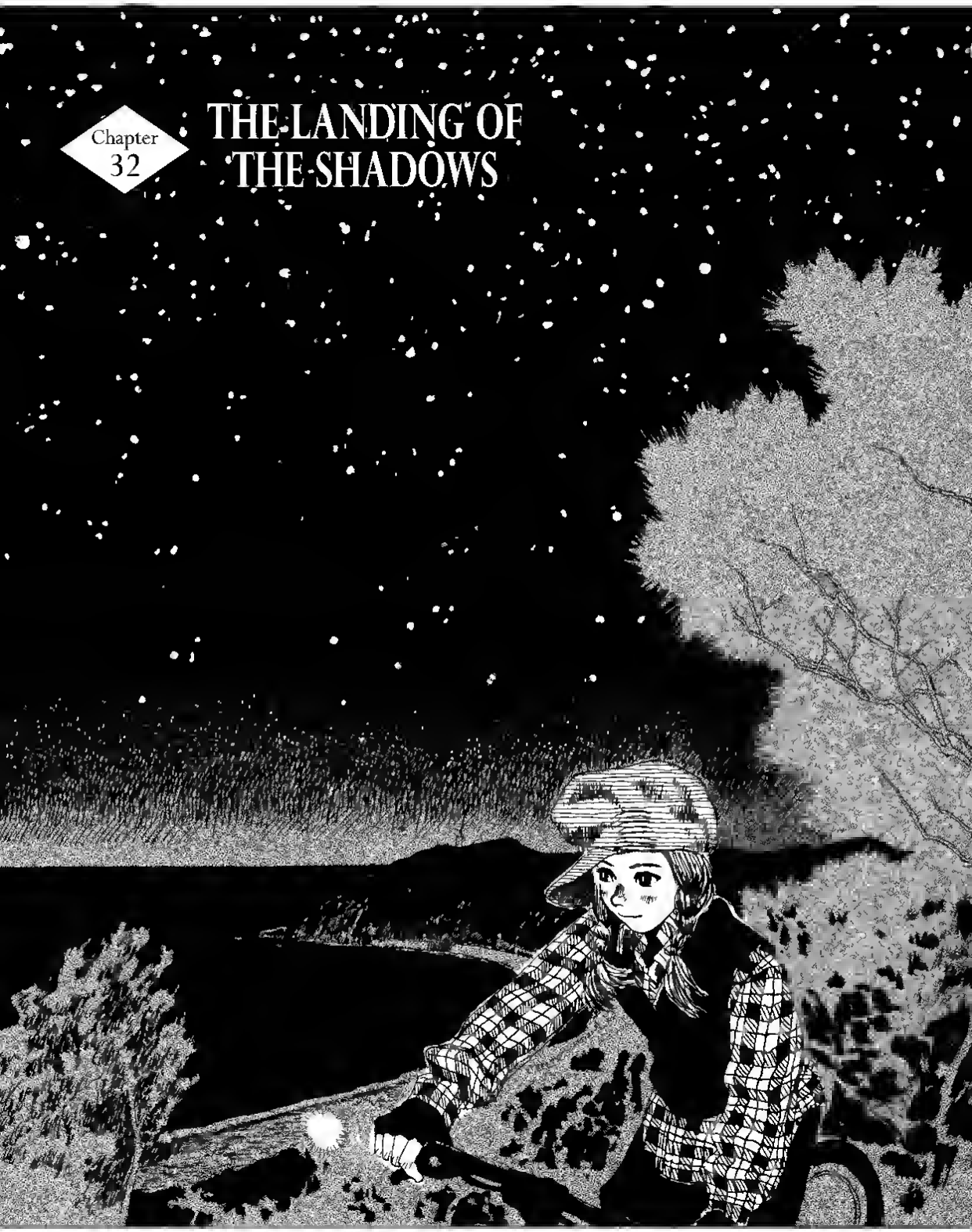
AWW, IT'S TORN OVER HERE TOO.
JEEZ, WHAT WAS THAT SUDDEN GUST OF WIND ABOUT.
...

WE GOTTA GET STARTED ON THE SECOND RUN SOON.
IT'S GONE.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOIN'?
DON'T BOTHER WITH THREAD,
JUST PATCH IT UP WITH DUCT TAPE.
BUT...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIND. IT PROBABLY SENT IT FLYING OFF THE SIDE TO THE GROUND.
ANYWAY, I GUESS IT'S RETURNED TO THE EARTH, SOMEWHERE.
THE EARTHWORM WOULD PROBABLY BE SATISFIED WITH THAT, RIGHT?
OR MAYBE...
MAYBE IT RODE THE WIND AND ASCENDED TO THE SKY.
AND THEN IT BECAME A DRAGON?

I WONDER IF THE CLOUDS LOOK LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF THE EARTHWORMS THAT ASCENDED TO THE SKY.

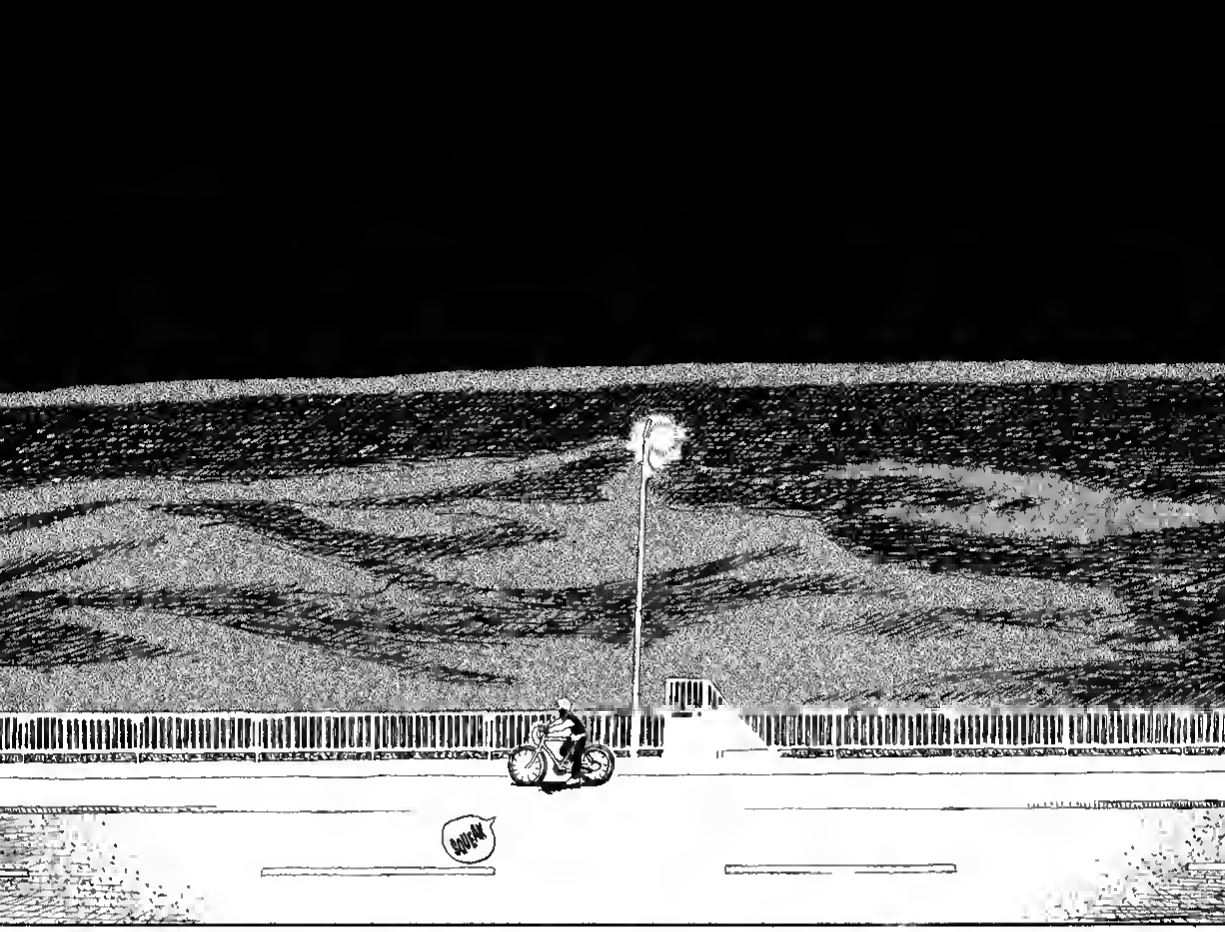
AND NOW THAT THEY'RE UP THERE, THEY'RE PLOWING IT.



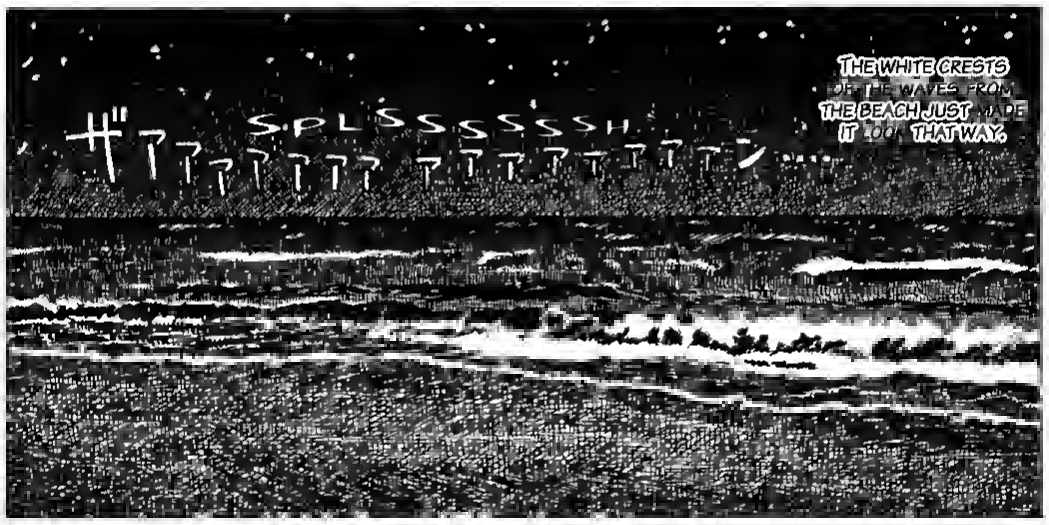


Chapter 32

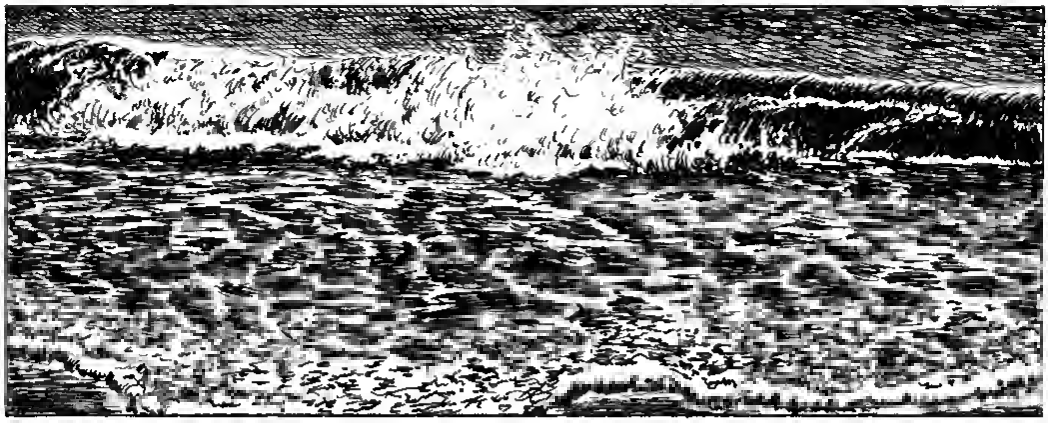
THE LANDING OF THE SHADOWS


BOOM

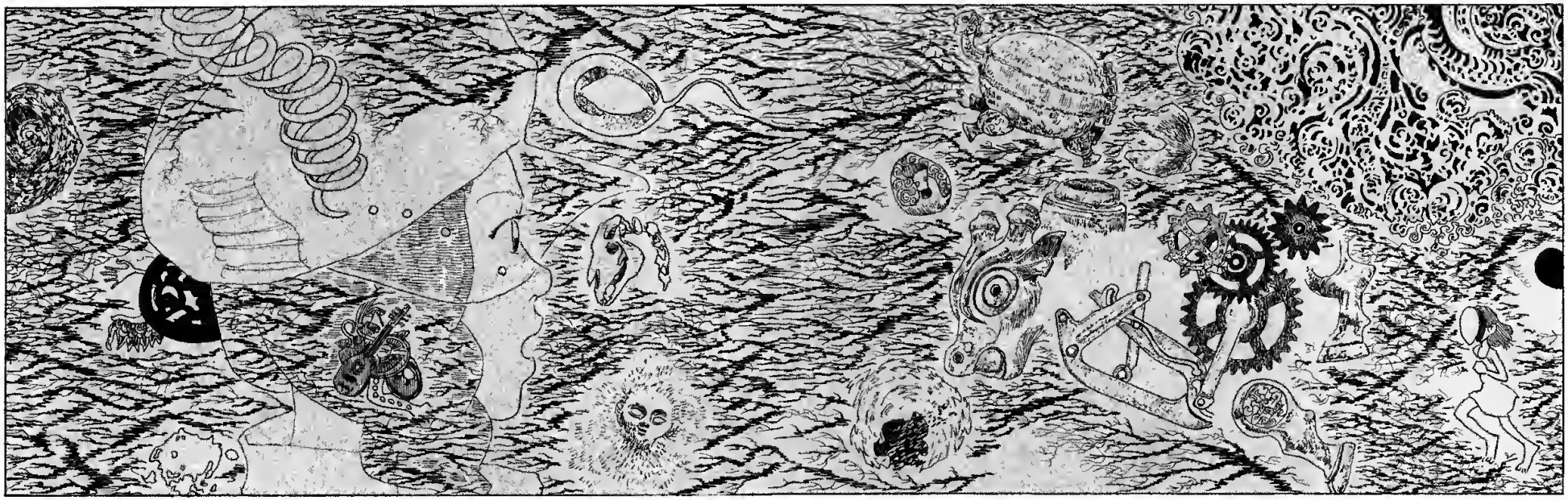
WHITE BEASTS WERE RUNNING ACROSS THE SANDY BEACH.

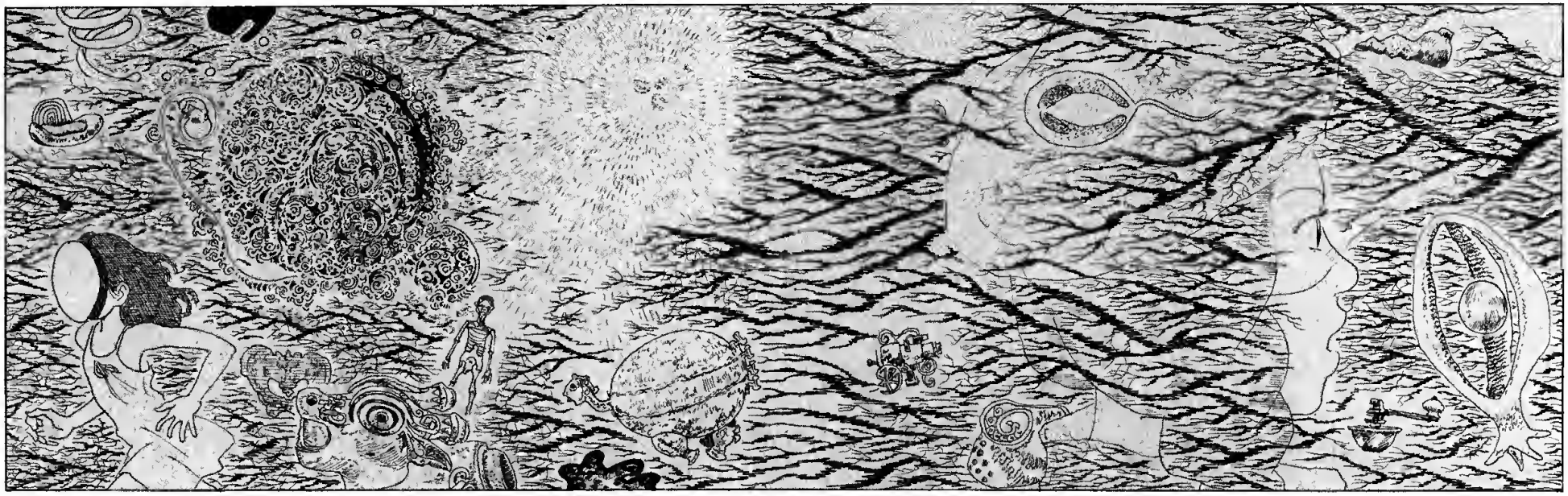

ザァァァ

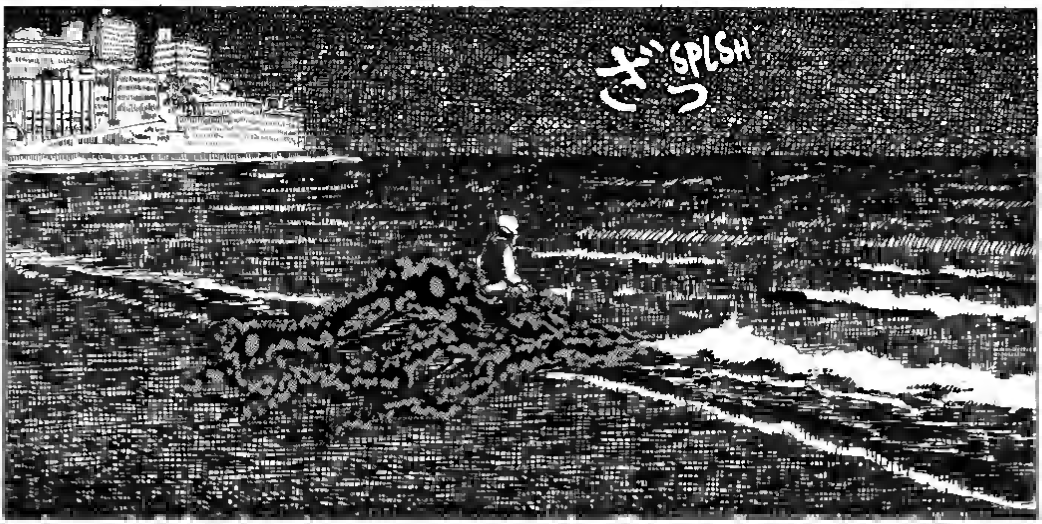
IS TRUE DARKNESS
FROM THE DEPTH
OF THE SEA.
THAT WHICH BREAKS
UPON THE SHORE
ENDLESSLY.
THE NIGHT SEA IS
THE DARK ITSELF.

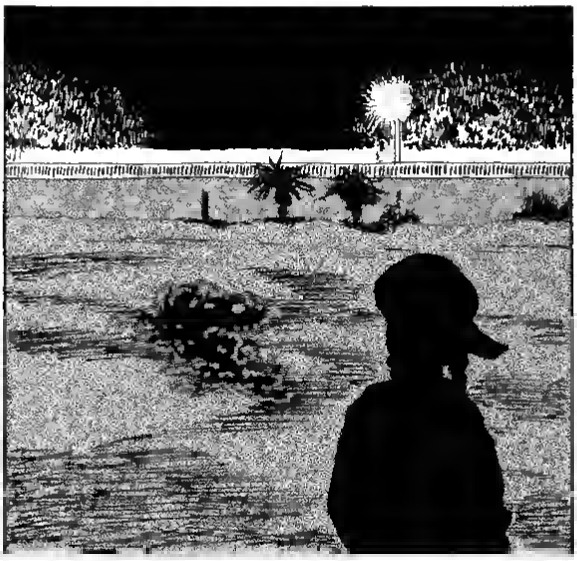


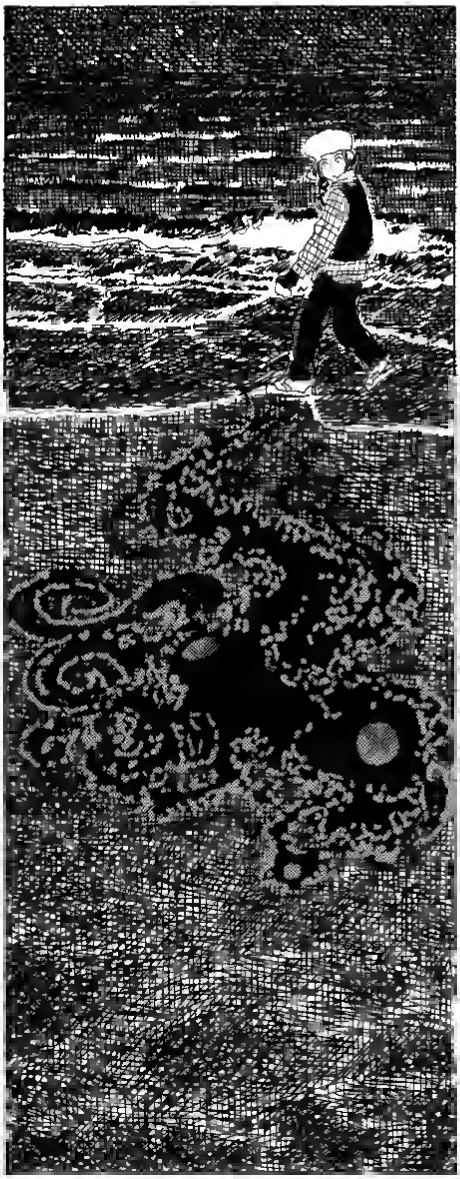
AH!






SPLSH





!

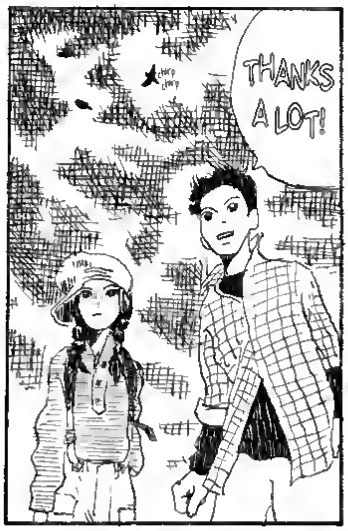
SPLUSH

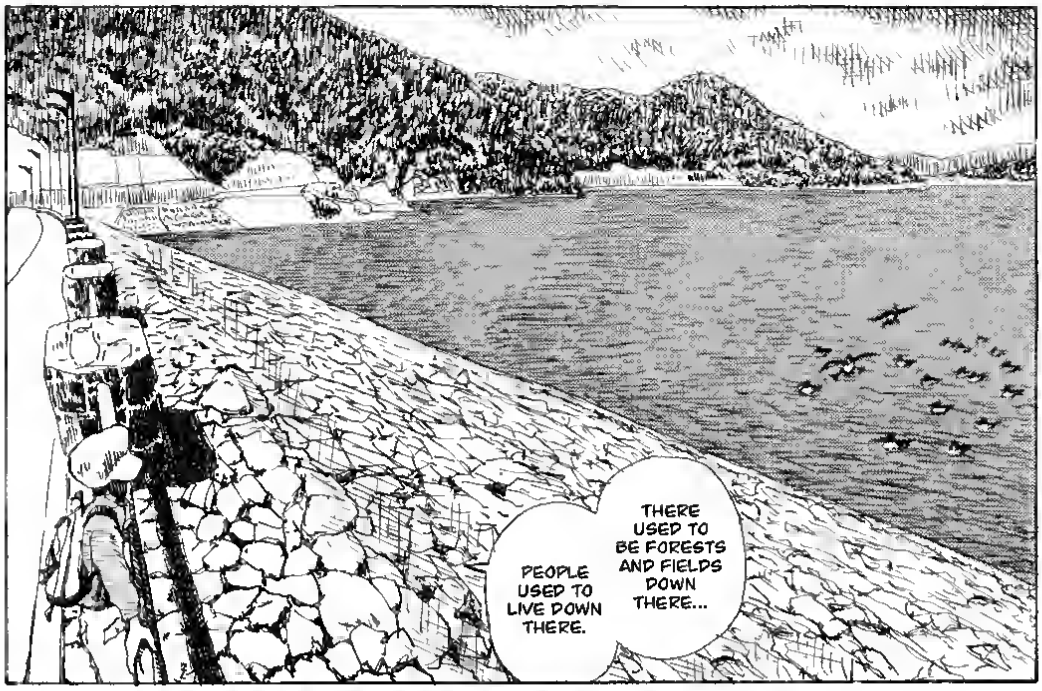
SPLSSSSH...
ザアアアアアアアアアアアン

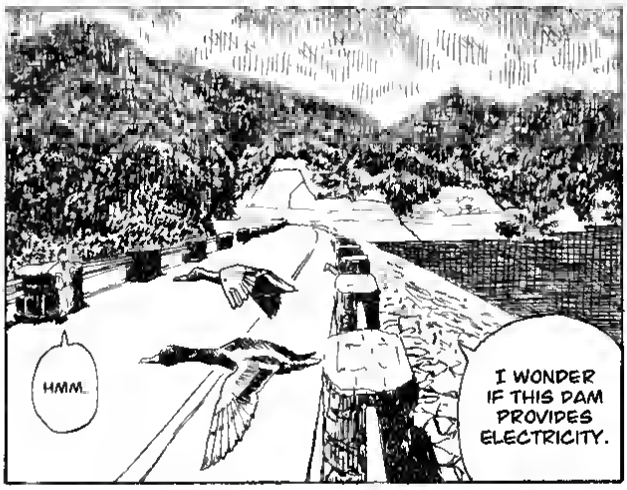
ザザザ
SPL
SHASHHHHH
ザ SPLSSSSSSH
アアアアアアアアアアアア

SPLASH

IF YOU GO AROUND HERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO SEE IT.

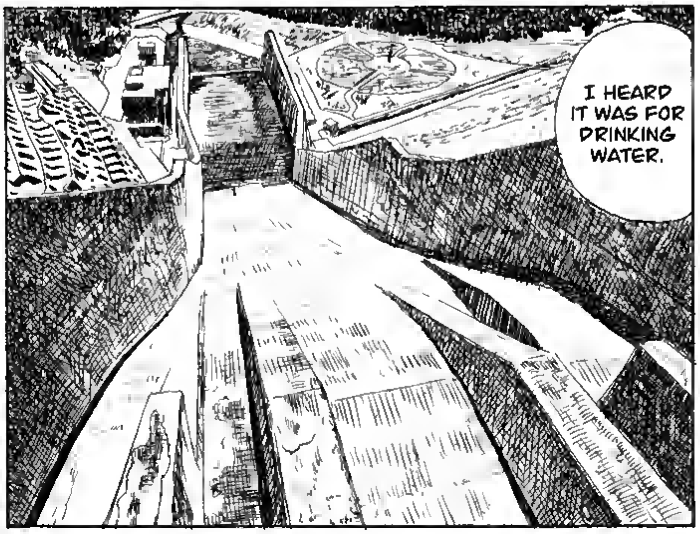

THANKS A LOT!


THERE USED TO BE FORESTS AND FIELDS DOWN THERE...
PEOPLE USED TO LIVE DOWN THERE.


I WONDER IF THIS DAM PROVIDES ELECTRICITY.
HMM...

WHAT'S WITH YOU? WHY DID YOU WANT TO SEE THE DAM SO SUDDENLY?

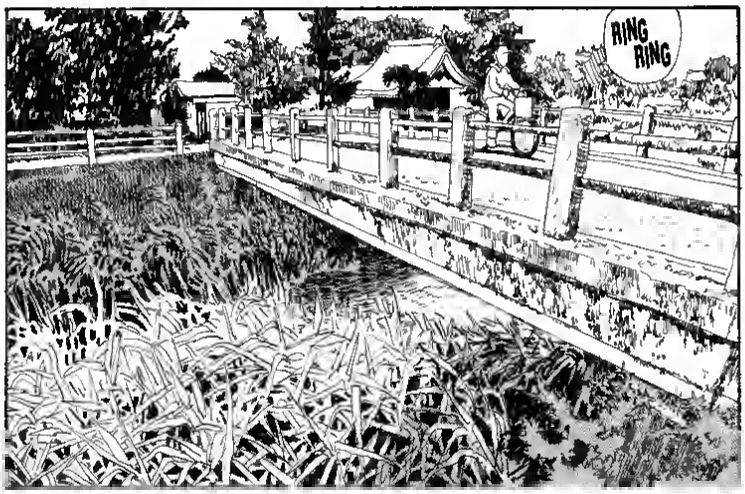
IF YOU GO UPSTREAM FROM THE SEA SHORE YOU END UP HERE, HUH.

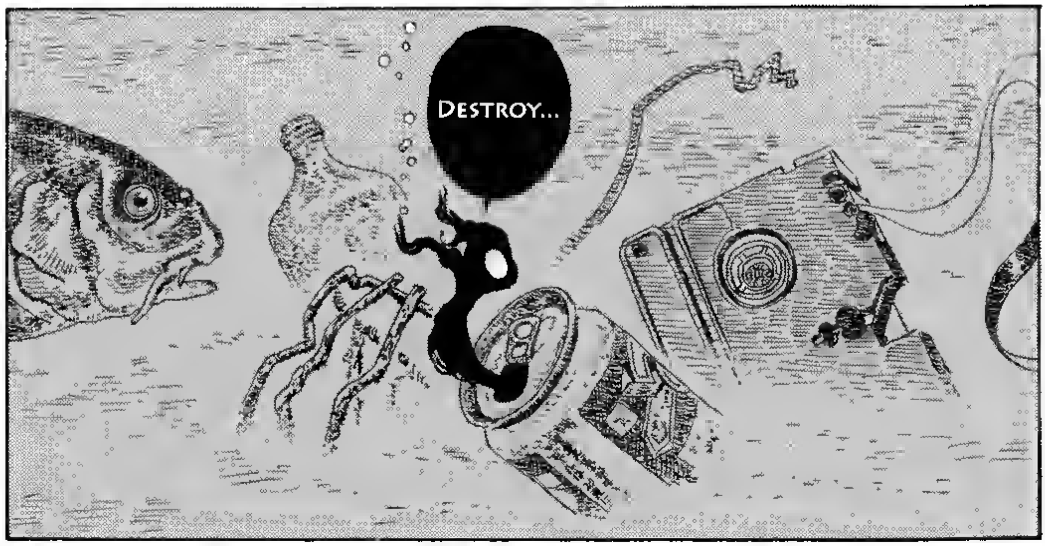

I HEARD IT WAS FOR DRINKING WATER.

I WONDER IF THEY'RE REALLY HEADING TO THE POWER PLANT.

OR IF THEY'RE JUST..

WHO IS?

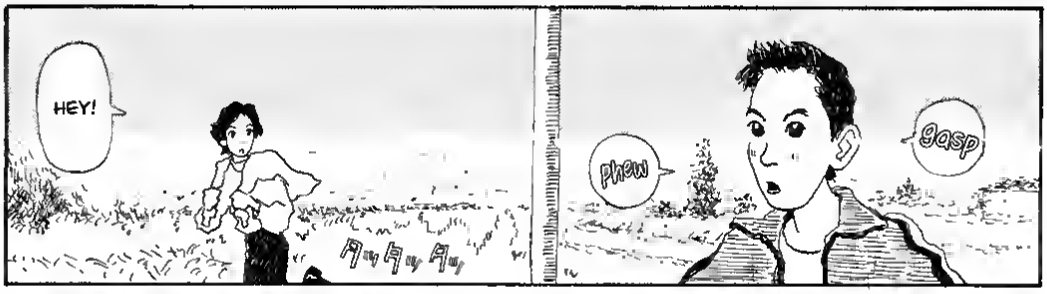


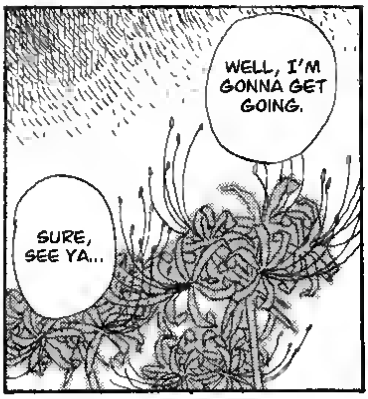


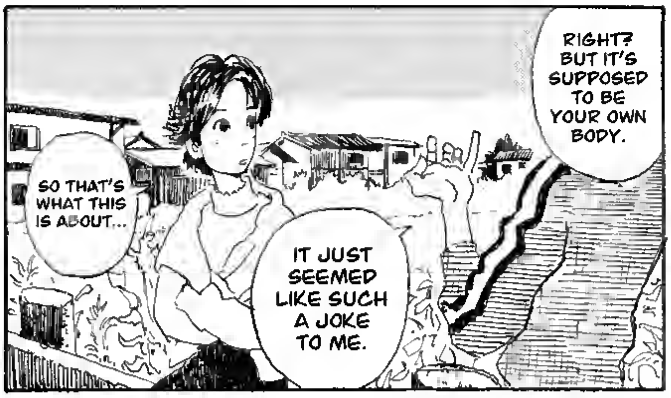
Chapter 33

THE SPEED OF BIRDS

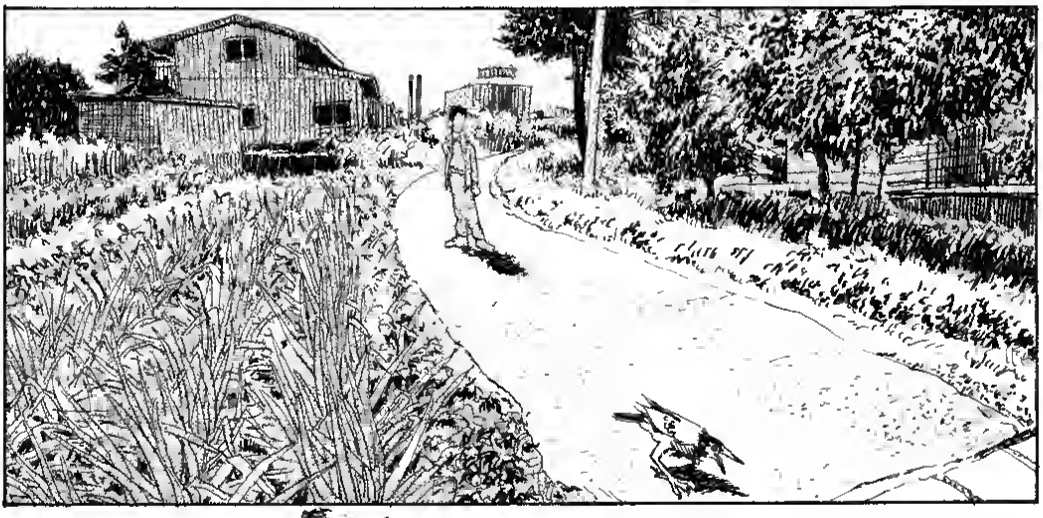
huff
huff
huff

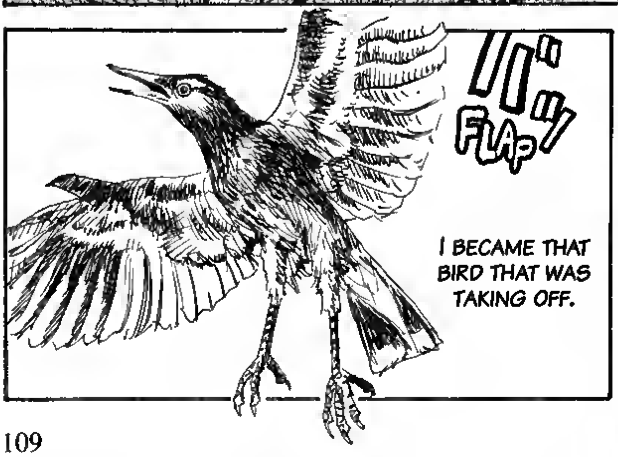



WELL, I'M GONNA GET GOING.
SURE, SEE YA...

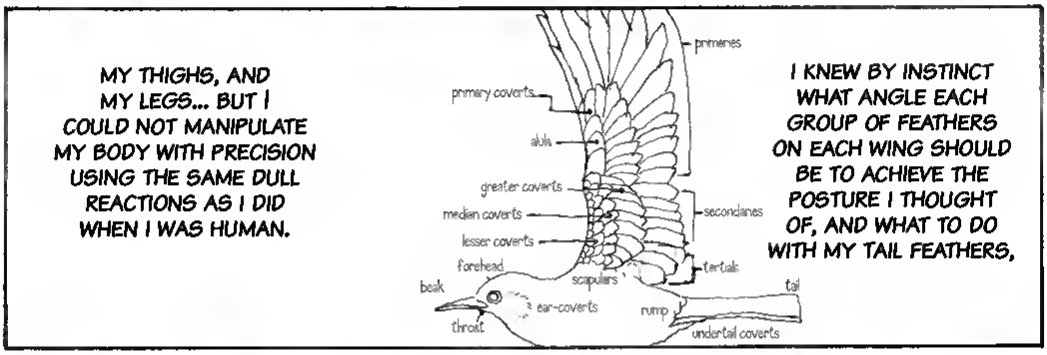

RIGHT? BUT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR OWN BODY.
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT...
IT JUST SEEMED LIKE SUCH A JOKE TO ME.

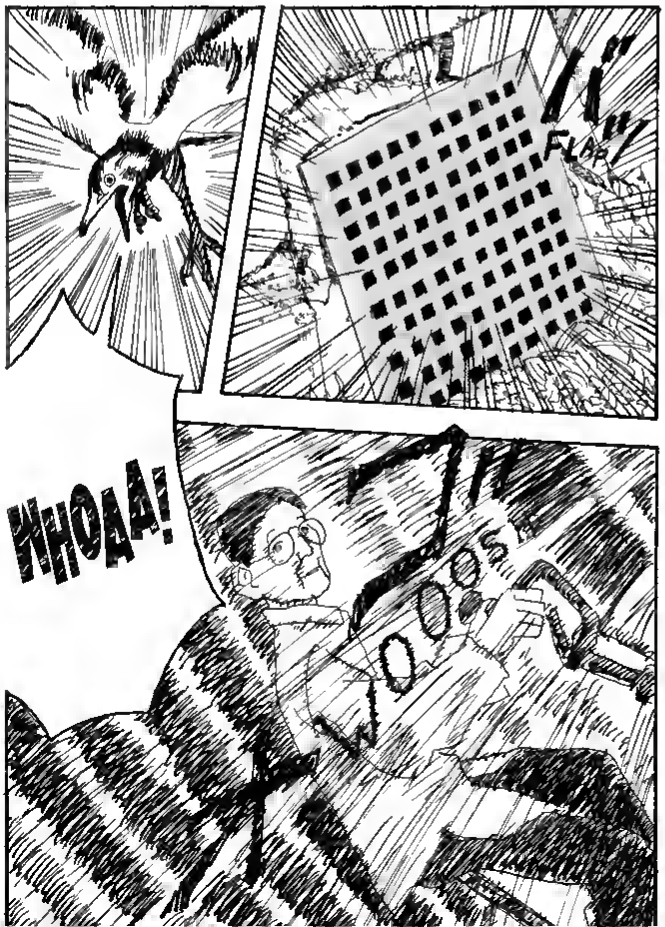
IT OCCURED SOME DAYS AGO WHEN I JUST HAPPENED TO BE WATCHING THIS BIRD.
gasp
Phew
huff
...

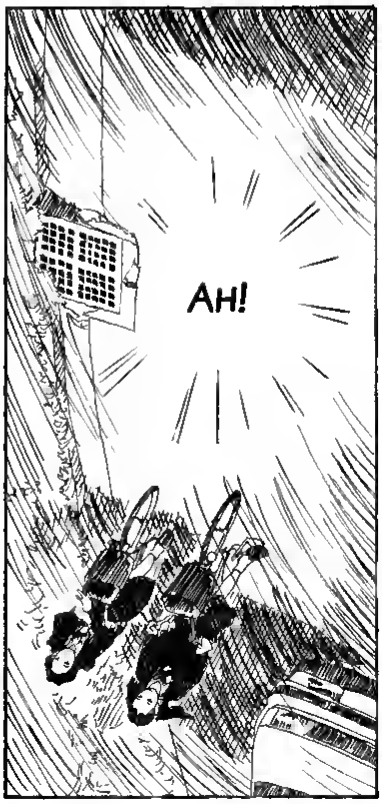



FLAP
I BECAME THAT BIRD THAT WAS TAKING OFF.

WHAT AMAZING SPEED!

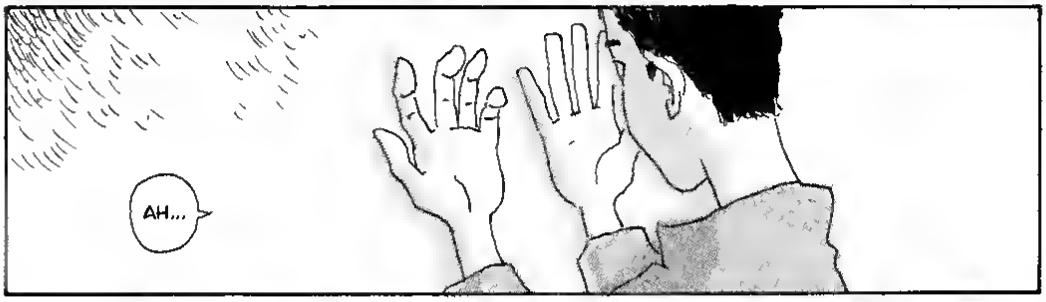

MY THIGHS, AND MY LEGS... BUT I COULD NOT MANIPULATE MY BODY WITH PRECISION USING THE SAME DULL REACTIONS AS I DID WHEN I WAS HUMAN.
primaries
primary coverts
alula
greater coverts
median coverts
lesser coverts
forehead
beak
throat
scapulars
ear-coverts
secondaries
tertials
tail
rump
undertail coverts
I KNEW BY INSTINCT WHAT ANGLE EACH GROUP OF FEATHERS ON EACH WING SHOULD BE TO ACHIEVE THE POSTURE I THOUGHT OF, AND WHAT TO DO WITH MY TAIL FEATHERS,

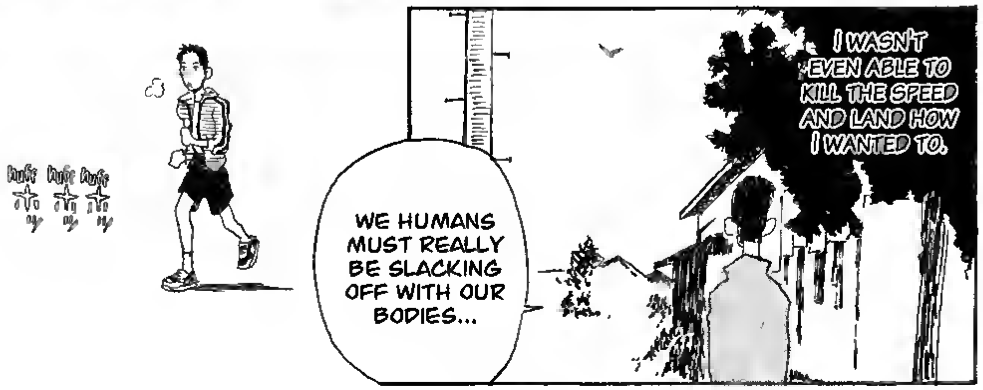

FLAP!
WHOAA!
WOOSH


AH!

!
AGH!
びゅん
TWIRL
SWISH
OUHH!
WAHH!
RUSTLE
AGHH
AHHHHH
AHHHH

HUH?

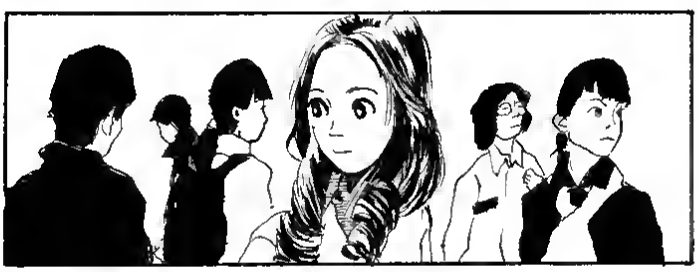

AH...


huff huff huff
WE HUMANS MUST REALLY BE SLACKING OFF WITH OUR BODIES...
I WASN'T EVEN ABLE TO KILL THE SPEED AND LAND HOW I WANTED TO.

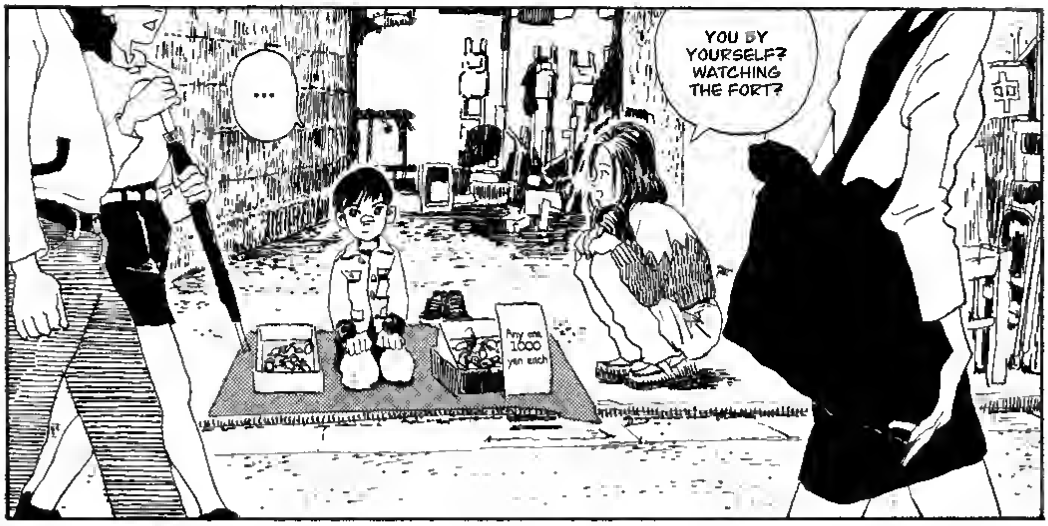
Chapter 34 SELLING BUGS

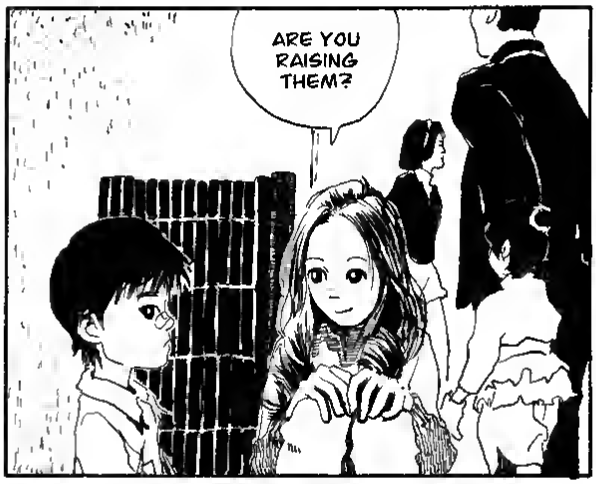
とり
鮒忠
街店

籍書



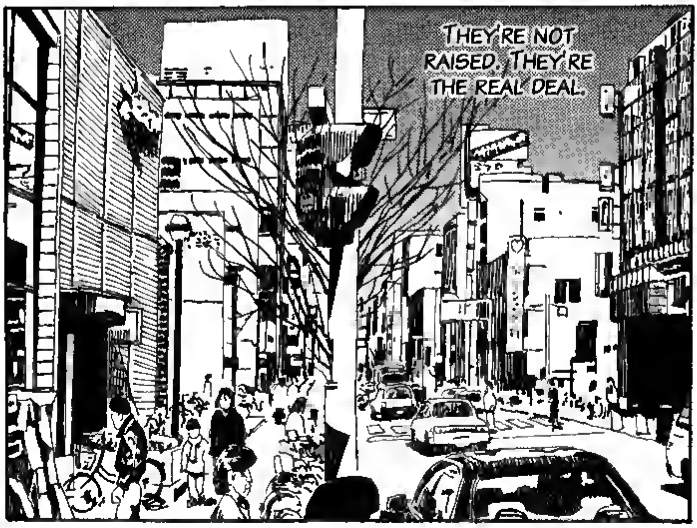
Scuttle
Any one 1000 yen each
Scuttle
Scuttle
Scuttle
健康シューズ
3,980
I WAS FRIENDS WITH THE SON OF THE BUG SELLER.


...
YOU BY YOURSELF? WATCHING THE FORT?
buy one 1000 yen each

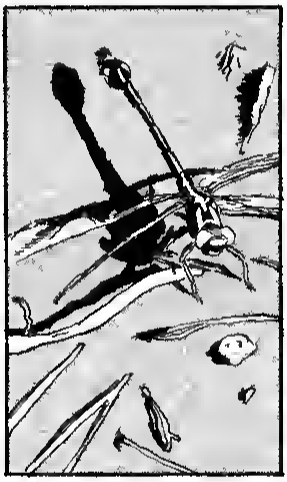

ARE YOU RAISING THEM?

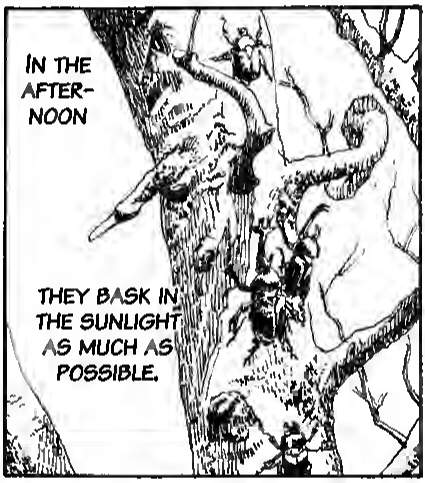
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF THEM, EVEN THOUGH IT'S THIS TIME OF YEAR.

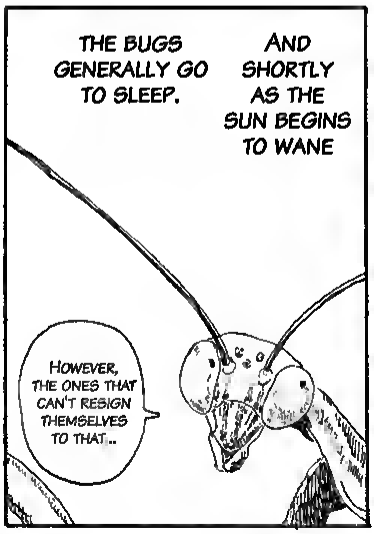
DAD GOES OUT AND CATCHES THEM.

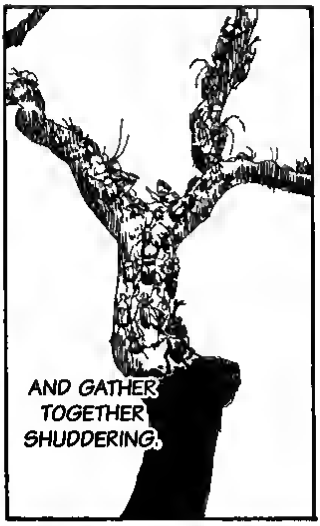

THEY'RE NOT RAISED. THEY'RE THE REAL DEAL.

EVEN WHEN IT GETS THIS COLD, THERE ARE STILL BUGS FIGHTING TO SURVIVE.

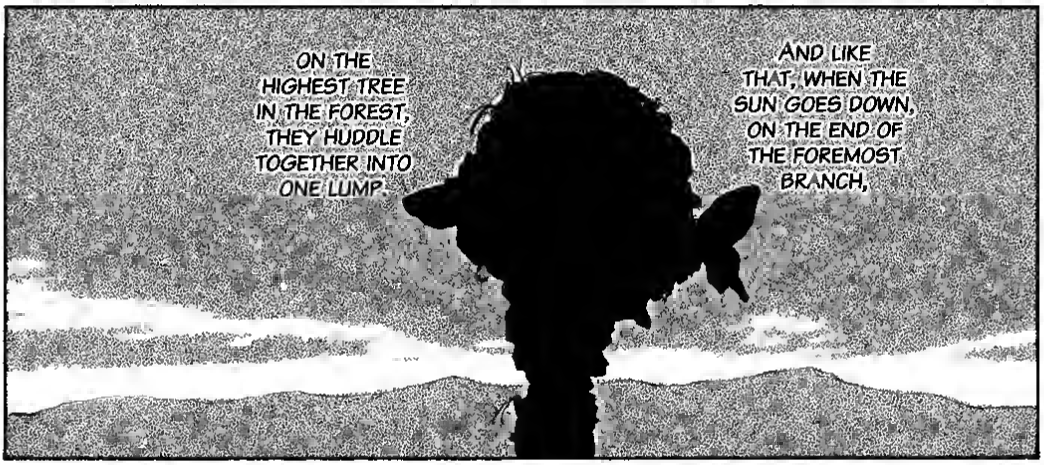


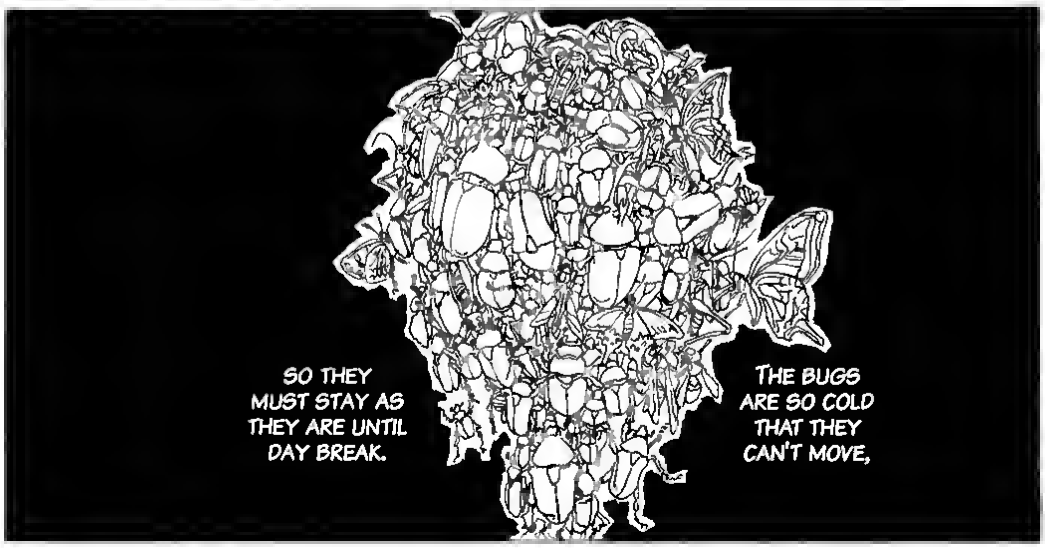

IN THE AFTER-NOON
THEY BASK IN THE SUNLIGHT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.


THE BUGS GENERALLY GO TO SLEEP.
AND SHORTLY AS THE SUN BEGINS TO WANE
HOWEVER, THE ONES THAT CAN'T RESIGN THEMSELVES TO THAT...


AND GATHER TOGETHER SHUDDERING,

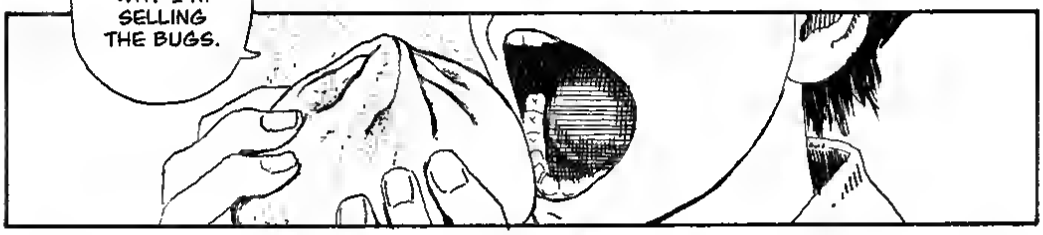
THEY SEEK THE RAPIDLY SHRINKING SUN LIGHT

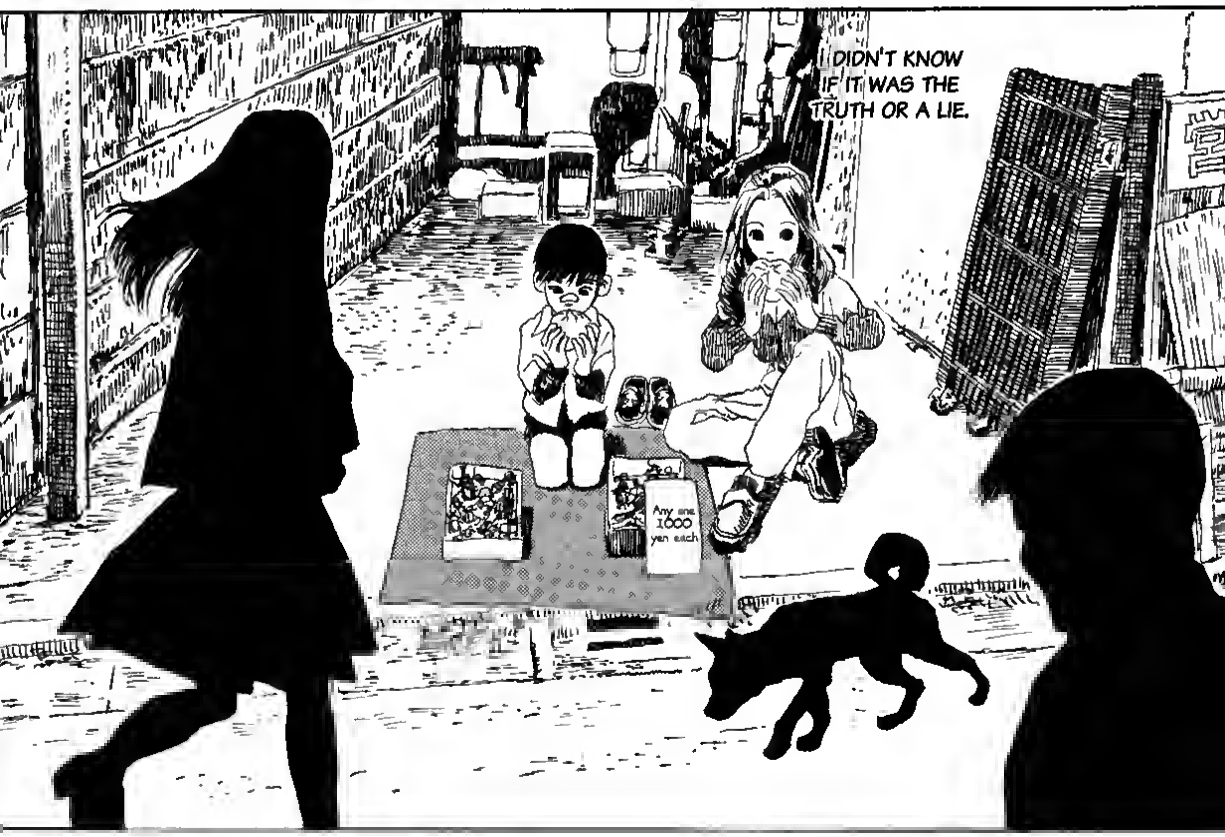

ON THE HIGHEST TREE IN THE FOREST, THEY HUDDLE TOGETHER INTO ONE LUMP.
AND LIKE THAT, WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN, ON THE END OF THE FOREMOST BRANCH,

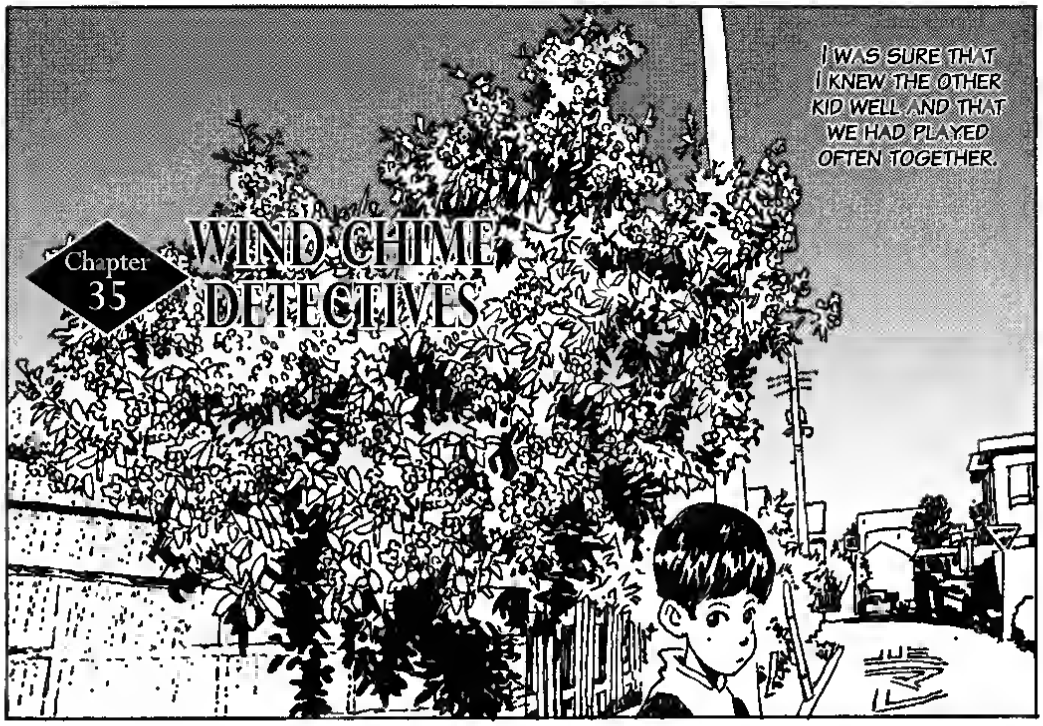

SO THEY MUST STAY AS THEY ARE UNTIL DAY BREAK.
THE BUGS ARE SO COLD THAT THEY CAN'T MOVE,

THUD
STOMP
STOMP
DAD HAD TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
BUT THE BIG BUNDLE OF BUGS ENDED UP COMING DOWN ON HIS HEAD THE OTHER DAY.
rustle

CHINESE BUNS 1 FOR 240 YEN


SO THAT'S WHY I'M SELLING THE BUGS.

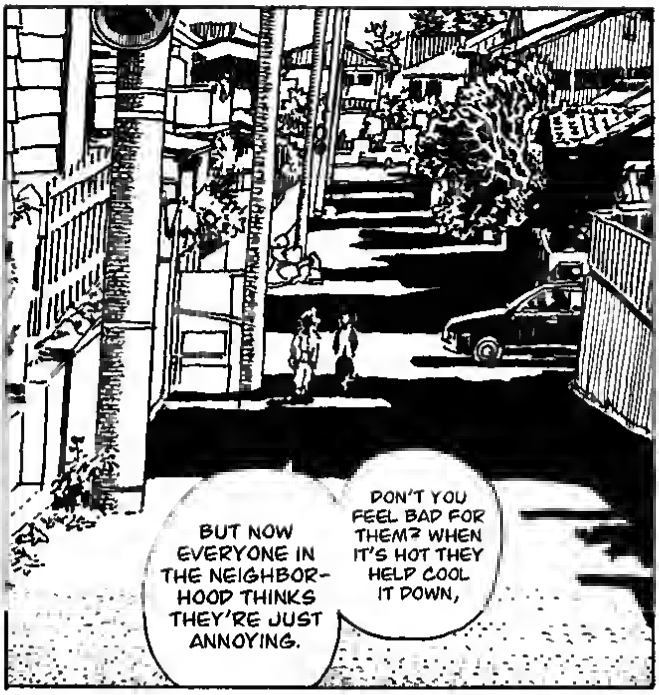

I DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WAS THE TRUTH OR A LIE.
Any one 1,000 yen each


Chapter 35
WIND CHIME DETECTIVES
I WAS SURE THAT I KNEW THE OTHER KID WELL AND THAT WE HAD PLAYED OFTEN TOGETHER.

THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF HOUSES THAT HAVE FORGOTTEN TO PUT AWAY THEIR WIND CHIMES.
SO WE FIND THEM AND LET THEM KNOW ABOUT IT.

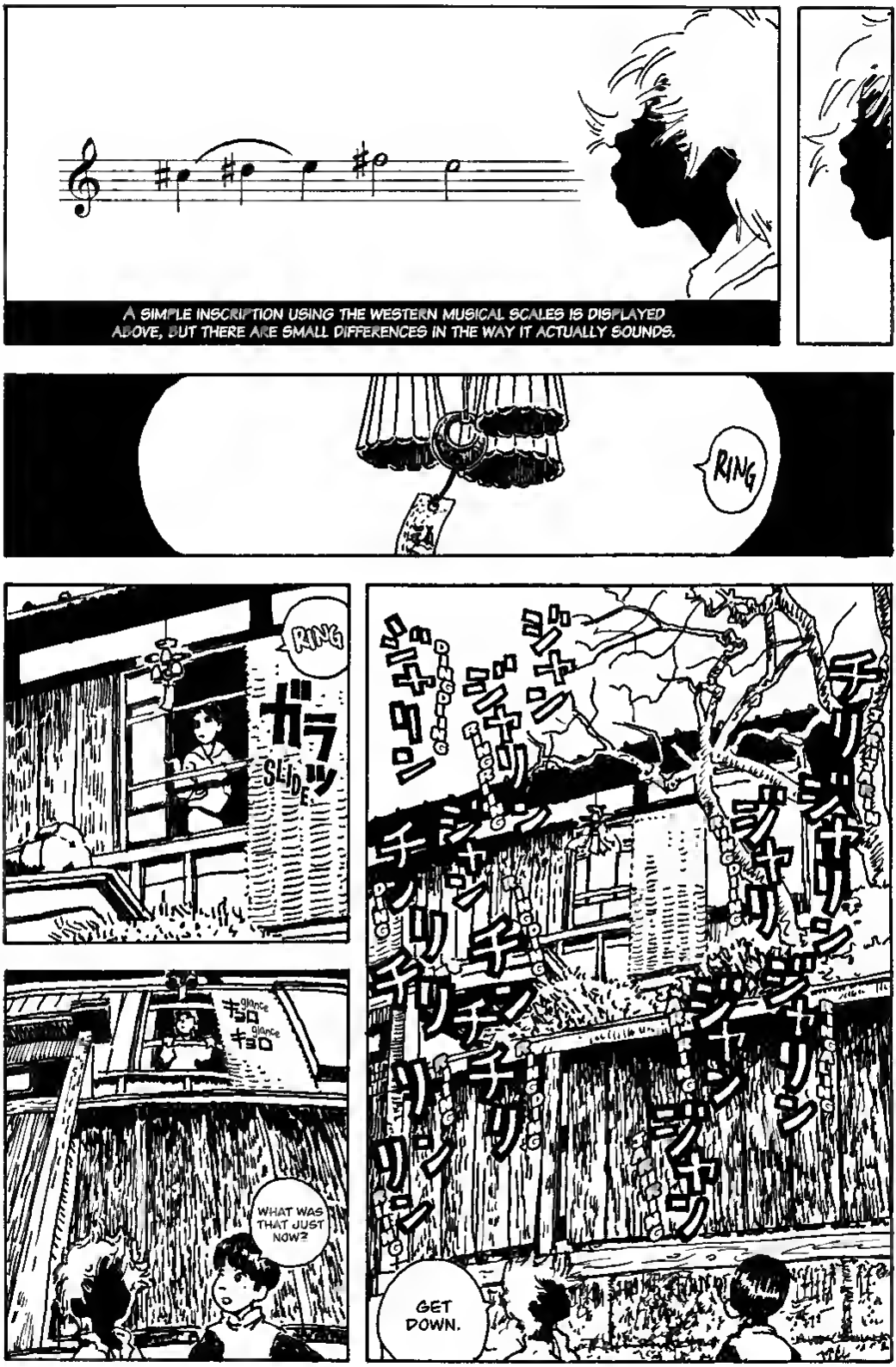
LET'S PLAY WIND CHIME DETECTIVES TODAY.
WHAT? WHAT'S THAT?

LOOK, THERE'S ONE OVER THERE.


DON'T YOU FEEL BAD FOR THEM? WHEN IT'S HOT THEY HELP COOL IT DOWN,
BUT NOW EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD THINKS THEY'RE JUST ANNOYING.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

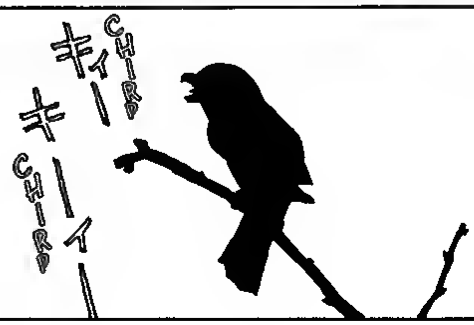
WE WHISTLE. WATCH ME.

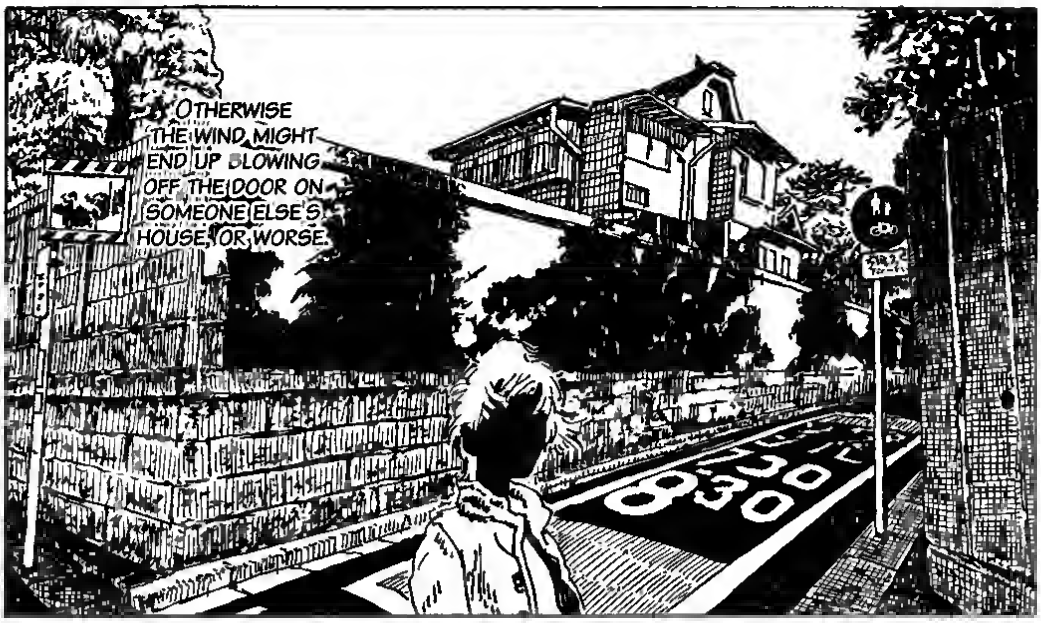

A SIMPLE INSCRIPTION USING THE WESTERN MUSICAL SCALES IS DISPLAYED ABOVE, BUT THERE ARE SMALL DIFFERENCES IN THE WAY IT ACTUALLY SOUNDS.
RING
RING
ガラッ
SLIDE
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
GET DOWN.

THAT MEANT, "SOUND OUT LOUDLY!" IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE WIND CHIMES.

BUT IF YOU'RE EVEN HALF A TONE OFF, OR GET ONE OUT OF TEN OF THE NOTES WRONG, IT'LL MEAN SOMETHING COMPELTELY DIFFERENT.

IT'S ALSO SIMILAR TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE WIND, SO YOU MUST BE CAREFUL.



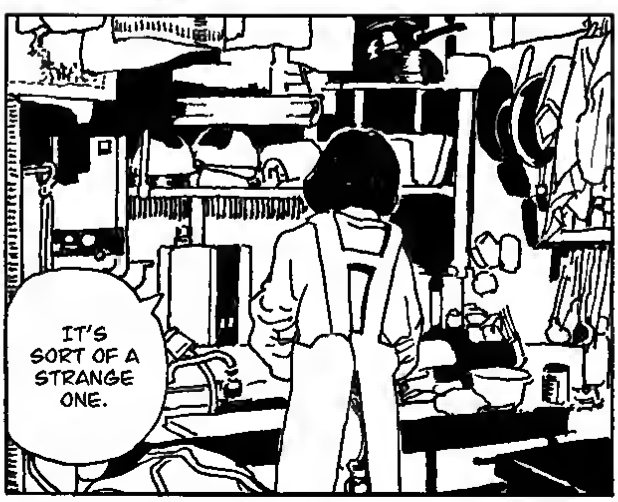

OTHERWISE THE WIND MIGHT END UP BLOWING OFF THE DOOR ON SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE, OR WORSE.

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A SHOT?

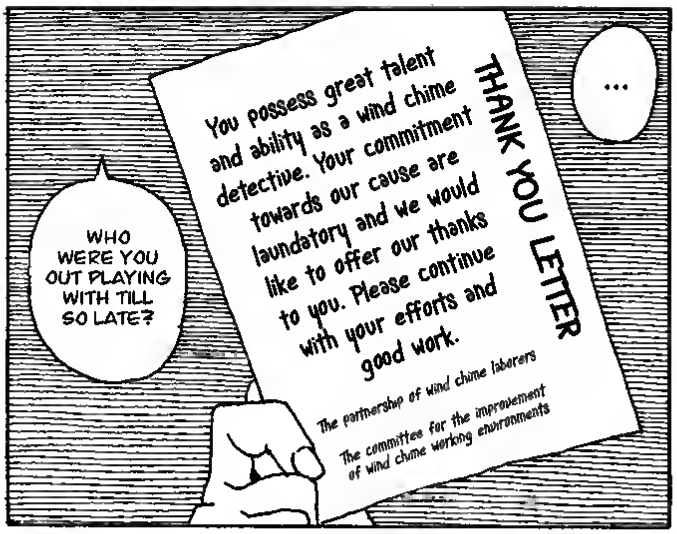
ALL RIGHT, LET'S FIND THE NEXT ONE.

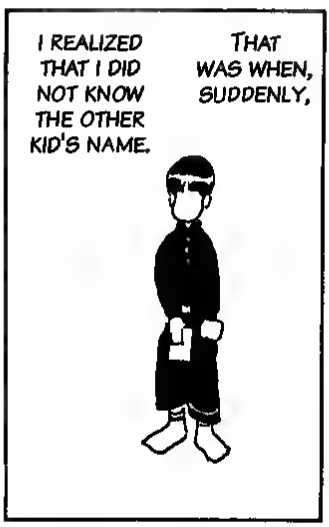
RING RING RING RING RING RING
RING RING RING RING RING RING
WOW.

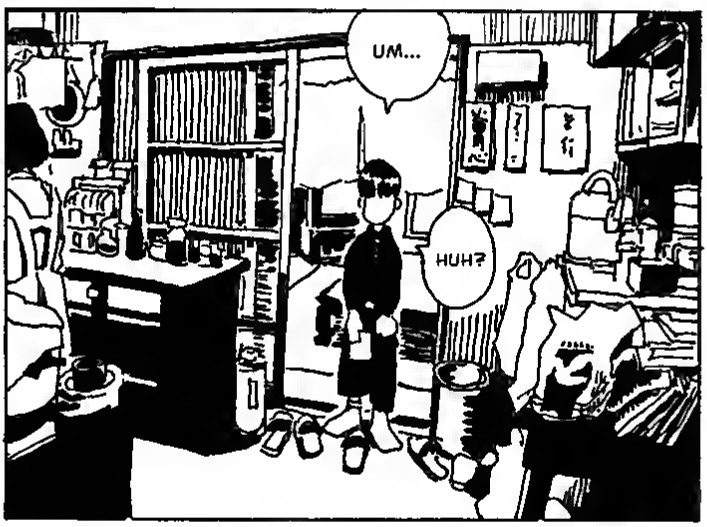
チリーン
RINGRING

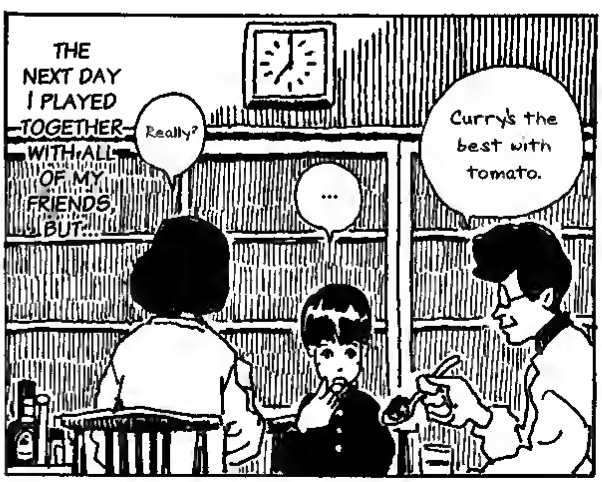


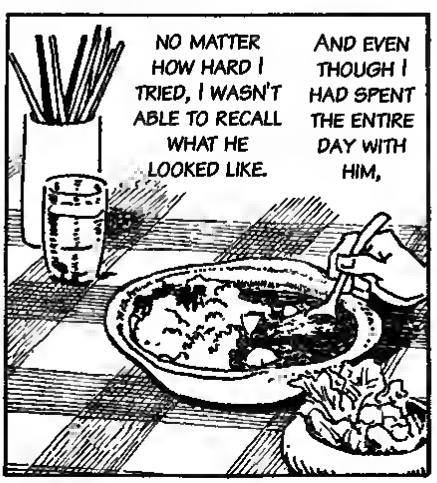
OH, UH,


WHO WERE YOU OUT PLAYING WITH TILL SO LATE?
THANK YOU LETTER
You possess great talent and ability as a wind chime detective. Your commitment towards our cause are laundatory and we would like to offer our thanks to you. Please continue with your efforts and good work.
The partnership of wind chime laborers
The committee for the improvement of wind chime working environments
...


I REALIZED THAT I DID NOT KNOW THE OTHER KID'S NAME.
THAT WAS WHEN, SUDDENLY,

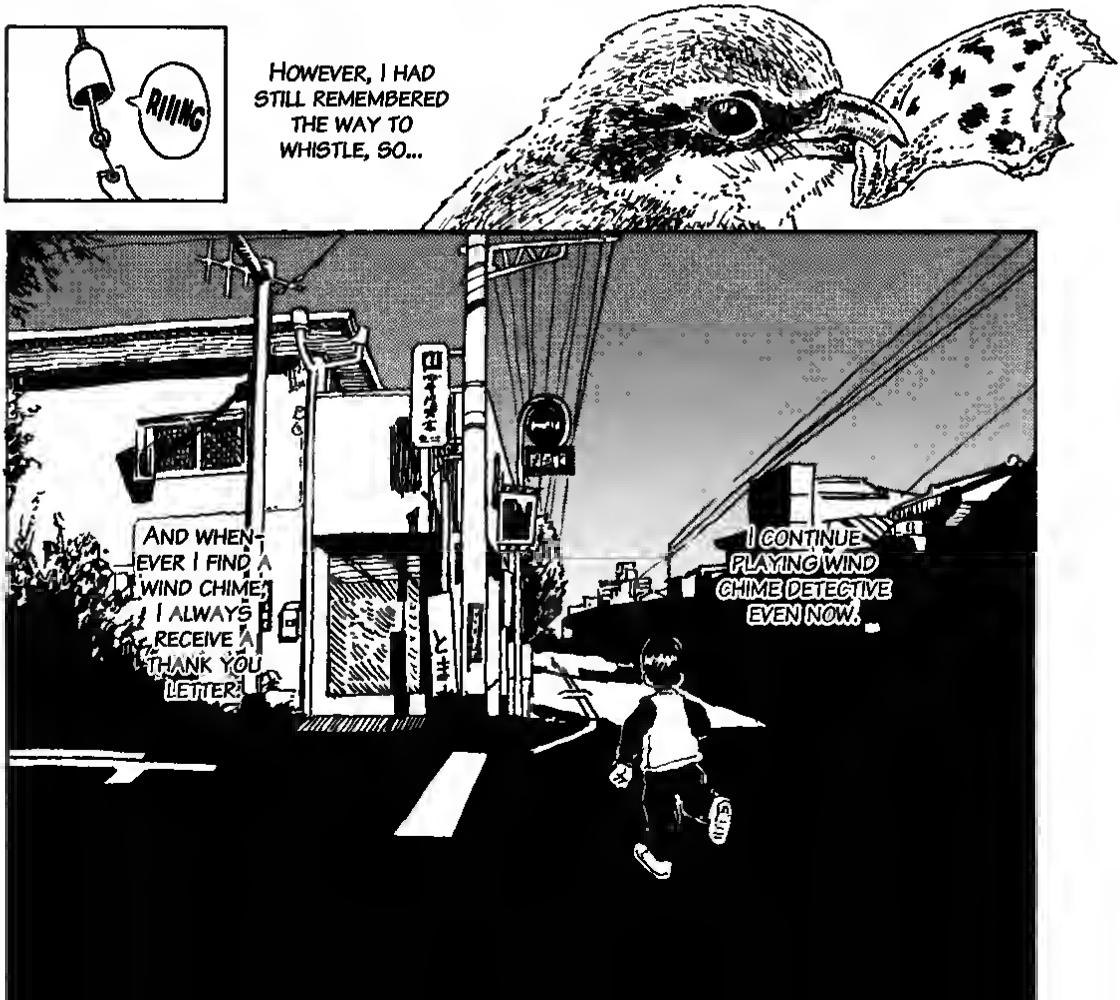

UM...
HUH?


THE NEXT DAY I PLAYED TOGETHER WITH ALL OF MY FRIENDS, BUT...
Really?
...
Curry's the best with tomato.


NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED, I WASN'T ABLE TO RECALL WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE.
AND EVEN THOUGH I HAD SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY WITH HIM,

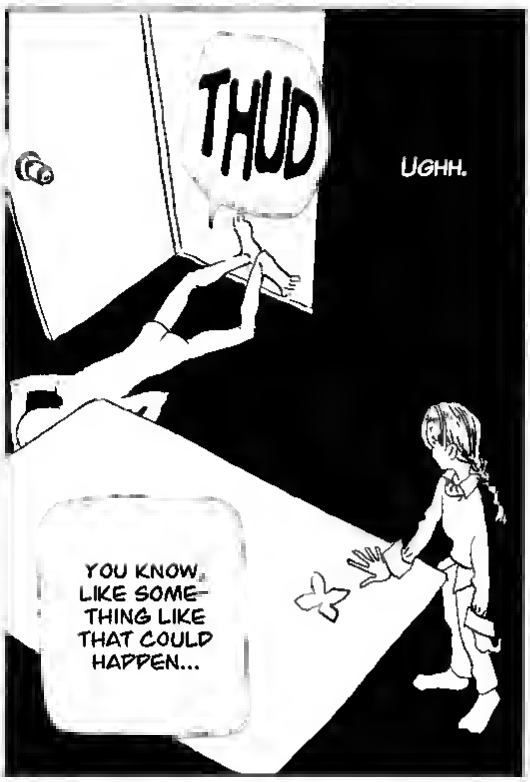
IT WASN'T ANY OF THEM.

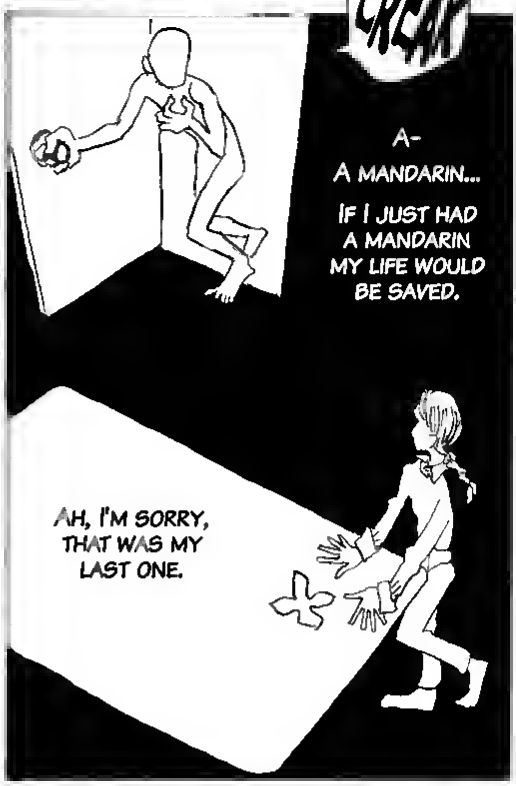
RIIING


HOWEVER, I HAD STILL REMEMBERED THE WAY TO WHISTLE, SO...
AND WHENEVER I FIND A WIND CHIME, I ALWAYS RECEIVE A THANK YOU LETTER.
I CONTINUE PLAYING WIND CHIME DETECTIVE EVEN NOW.

Chapter 36

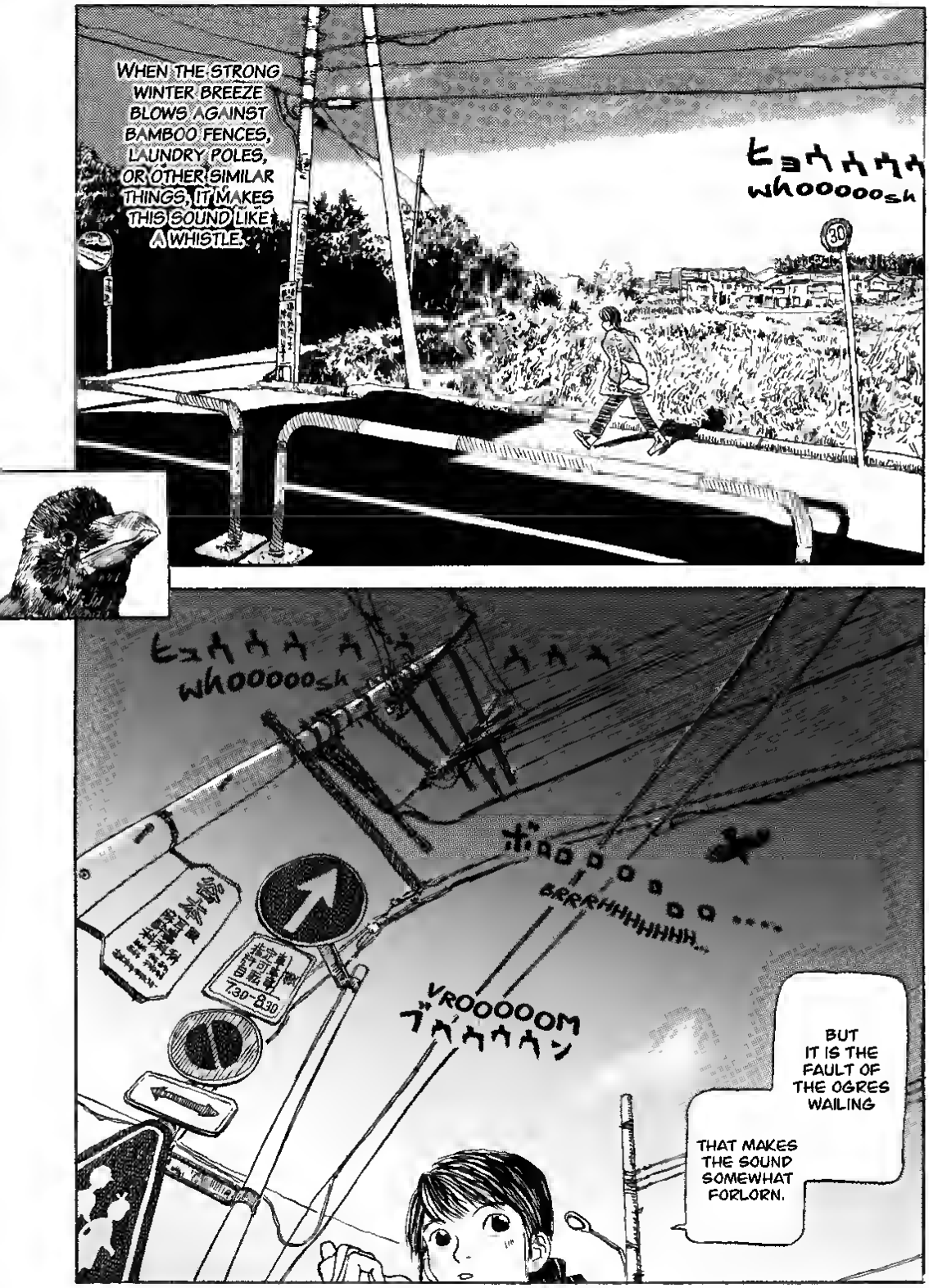
THE MANDARIN AND THE OGRE





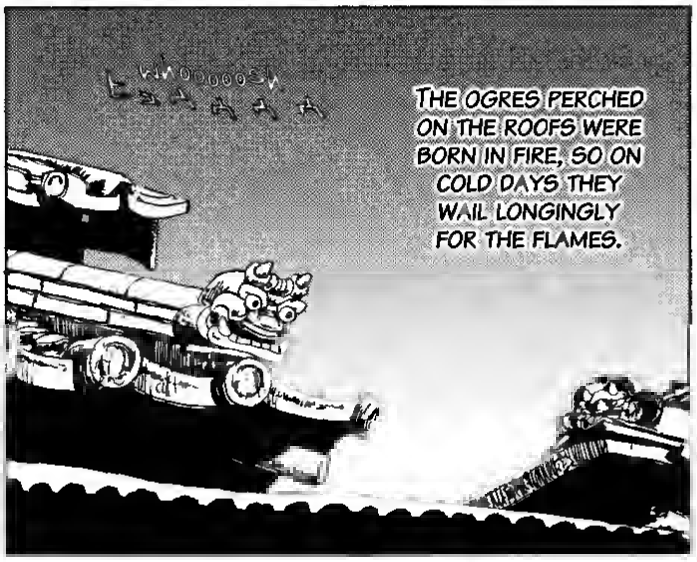
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS GO OUT TO BUY SOME BEFORE THEY'RE ALL GONE.

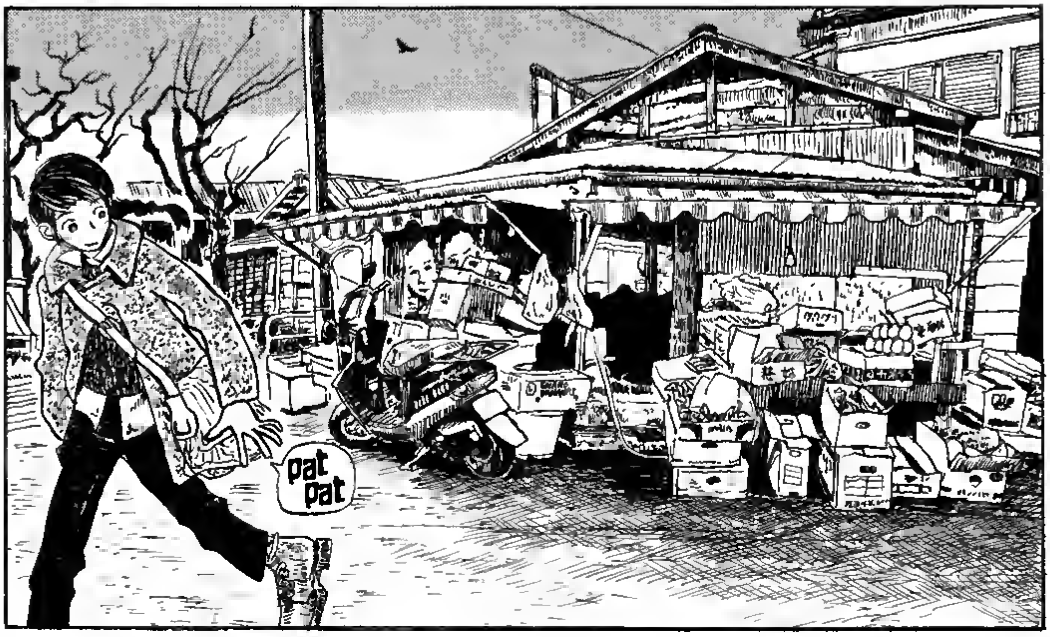
ヒュウウウウ
whooosh

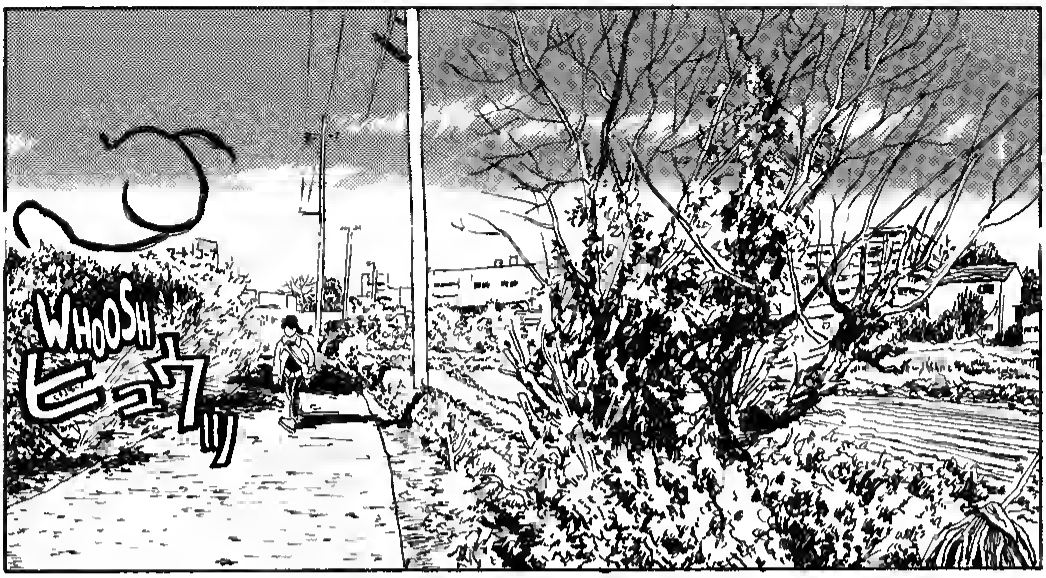

WHEN THE STRONG WINTER BREEZE BLOWS AGAINST BAMBOO FENCES, LAUNDRY POLES, OR OTHER SIMILAR THINGS, IT MAKES THIS SOUND LIKE A WHISTLE.
ヒョウウウウ
whoooooosh
30
ヒュウウウ ウウ ウウウ
whoooooosh
ボロロロロロロロ....
BRRRHHHHHHH...
VROOOOOM
ブウウウウン
7.30-8.30
BUT IT IS THE FAULT OF THE OGRES WAILING
THAT MAKES THE SOUND SOMEWHAT FORLORN.

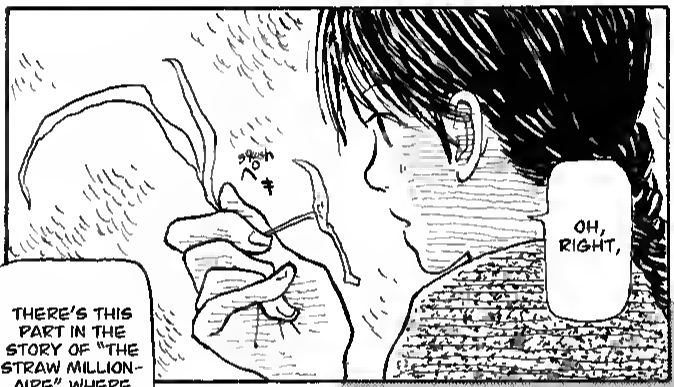
ORRHHH...
OOO!!
OOOO

URRHHH...
OOO
OOO


THE OGRES PERCHED ON THE ROOFS WERE BORN IN FIRE, SO ON COLD DAYS THEY WAIL LONGINGLY FOR THE FLAMES.


pat pat



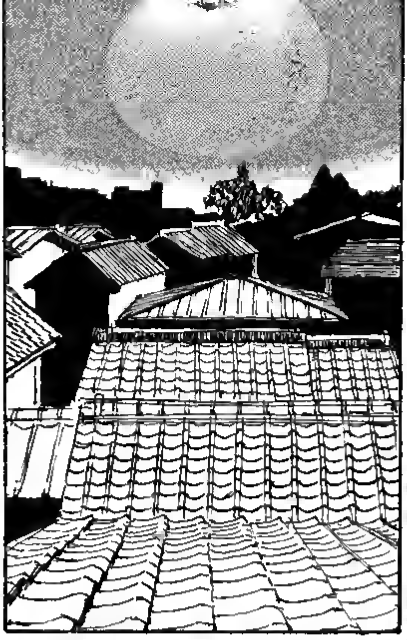


THERE'S THIS PART IN THE STORY OF "THE STRAW MILLIONAIRE" WHERE HE HELPS AN ILL PERSON WITH A MANDARIN...

"W-WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE SOMETHING THAT I COULD DRINK TO EASE MY ILLNESS?" "OH, I HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME MANDARINS, PLEASE EAT THEM." AND SO SHE TOOK THE MANDARINS AND ATE THEM WITH GREAT RELISH.

AND SO HE TRADED THE STRAW FOR A MANDARIN AND AS HE CONTINUED TO WALK DOWN THE ROAD HE SAW A WOMAN WHO APPEARED TO BE IN PAIN UNDER A PINE TREE.

カッタ
CLAK
カッタ カッタ
CLAK CLAK

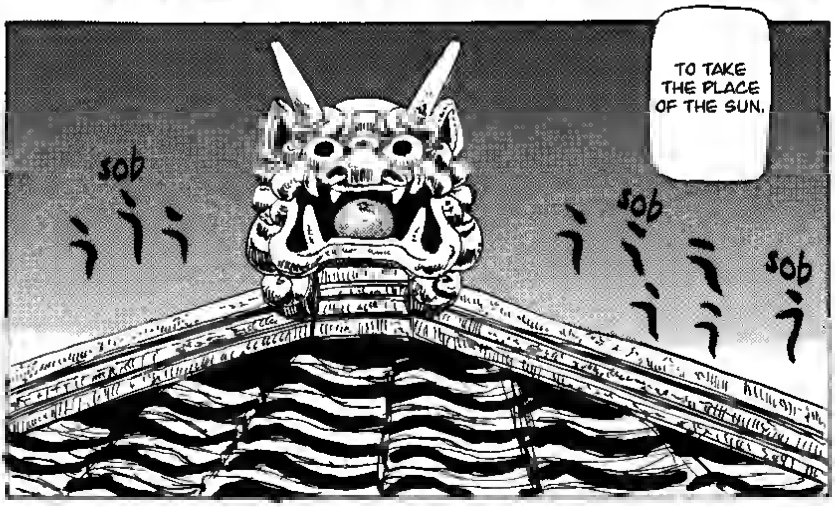


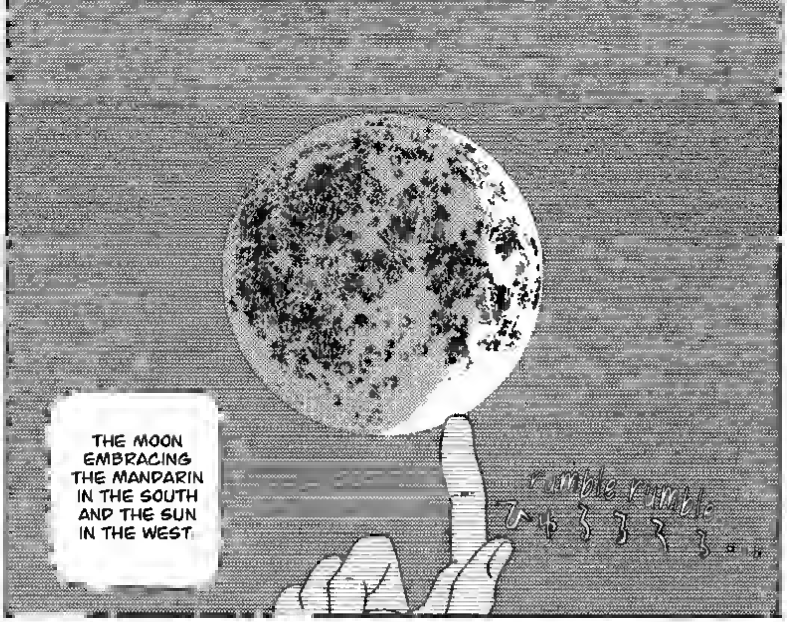
HOP!

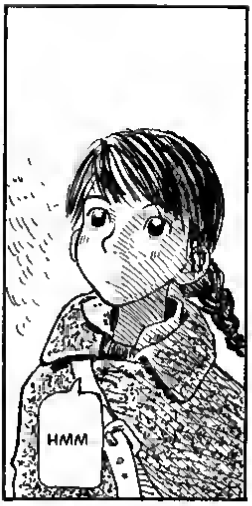
WHOOSH
ヒュウウ
ウウ
...

RATTLE
WHOOPS!

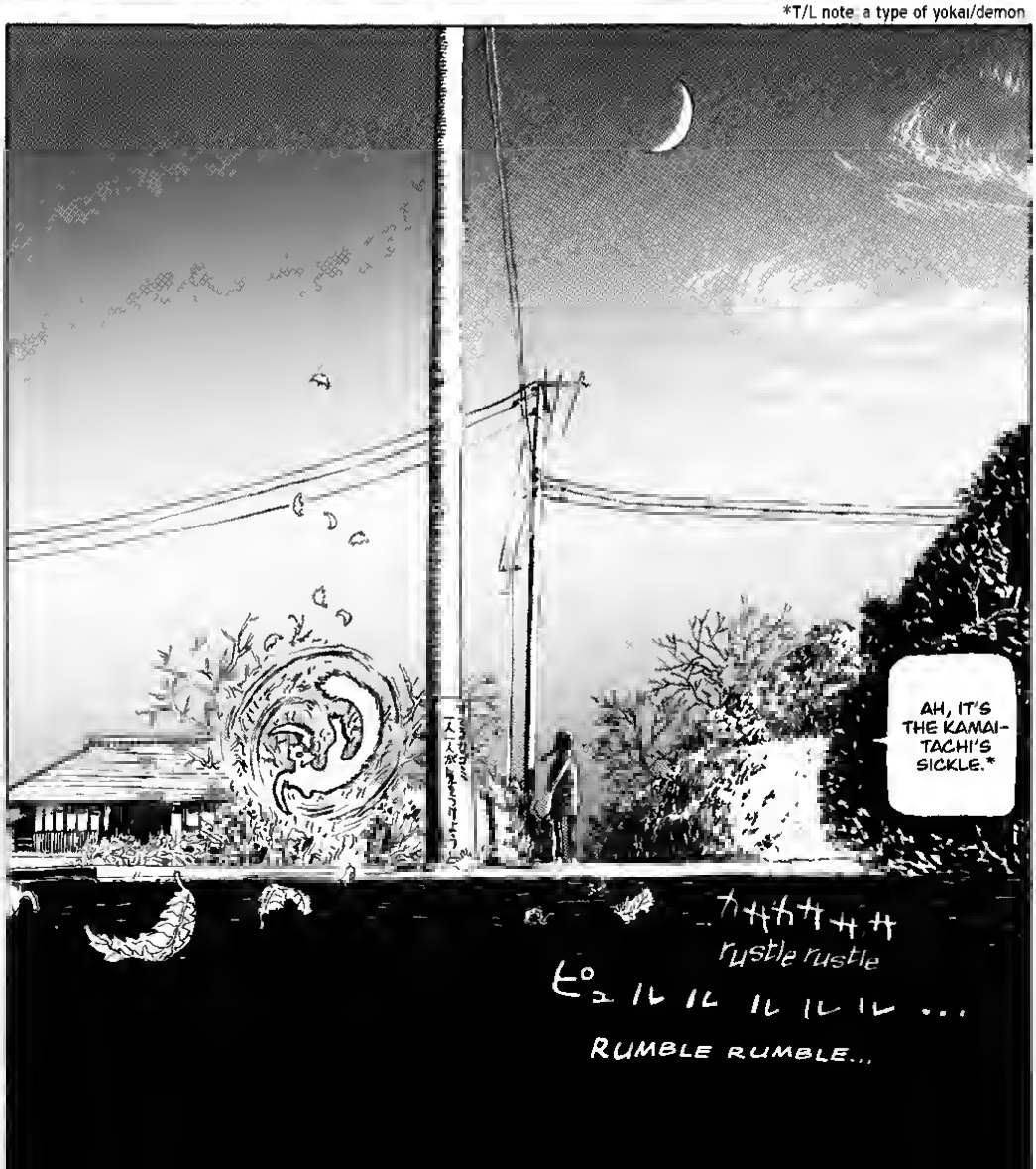
ひゅうううう
Whooosh

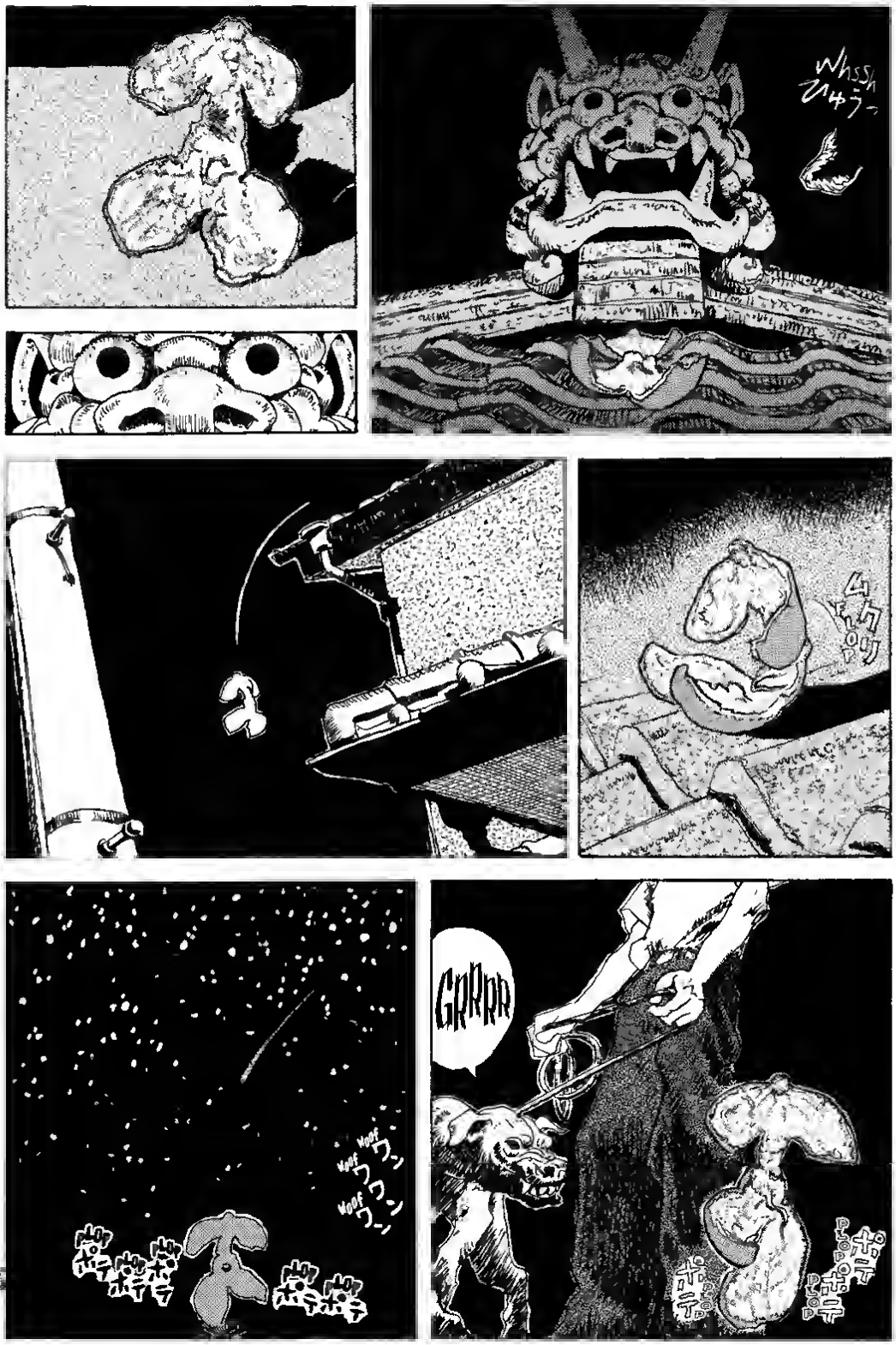






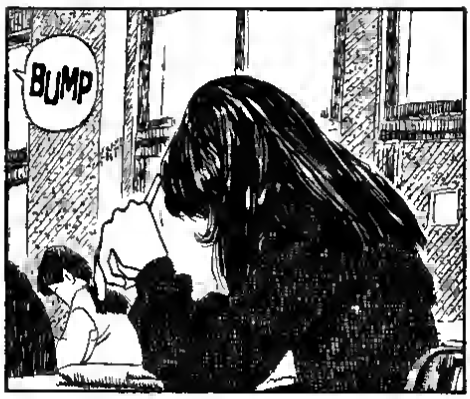
*T/L note: a type of yokai/demon

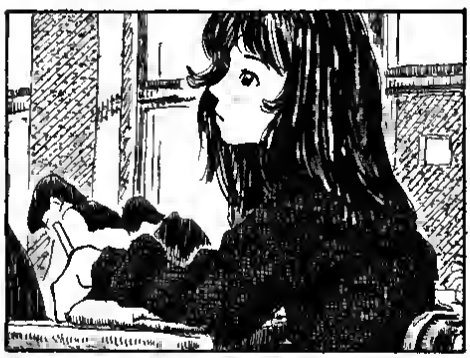


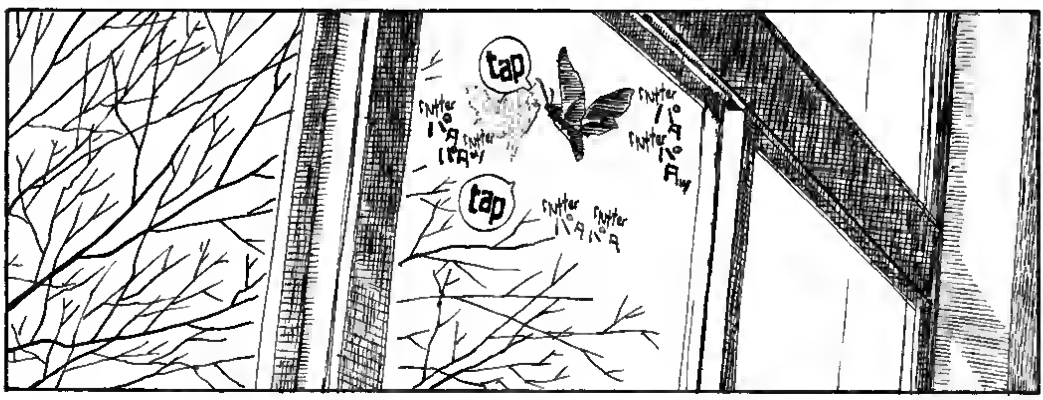

Whssh
ひゅう
GRRR
woof ワン
woof ワワン
woof ワン
ポテ
ポテポテ
ポテポテ
ポテ
ポテポテ
ポテ
ポテ
ポテ
ポテ
ポテ
ポテ
ポテ
ポテ

Chapter 37

CARRYING THE SNOW



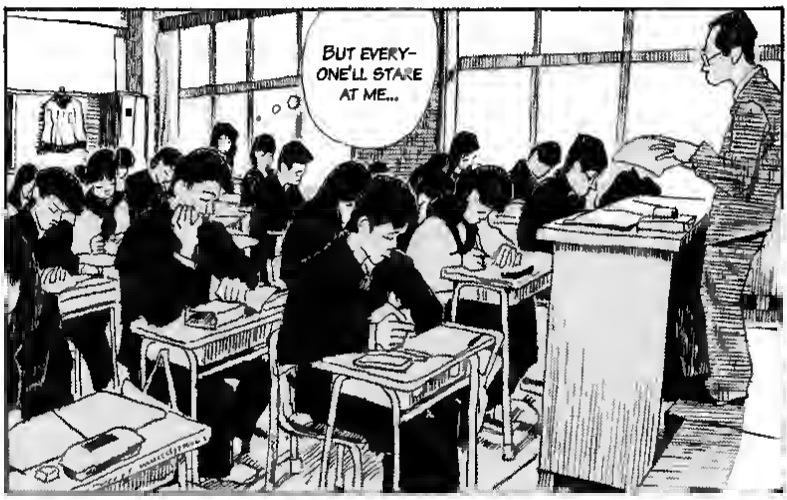




BUMP
I'VE GOT TO HURRY UP AND OPEN THE WINDOW.
tap

BUMP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

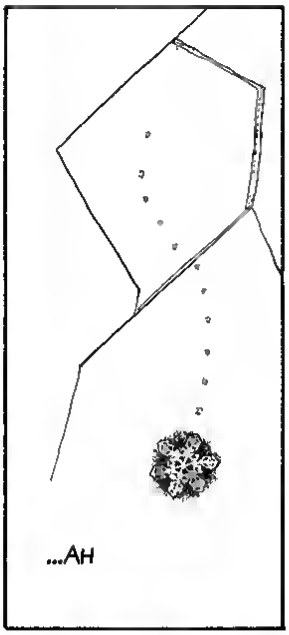
CRACK
!


BUT EVERY-ONE'LL STARE AT ME...

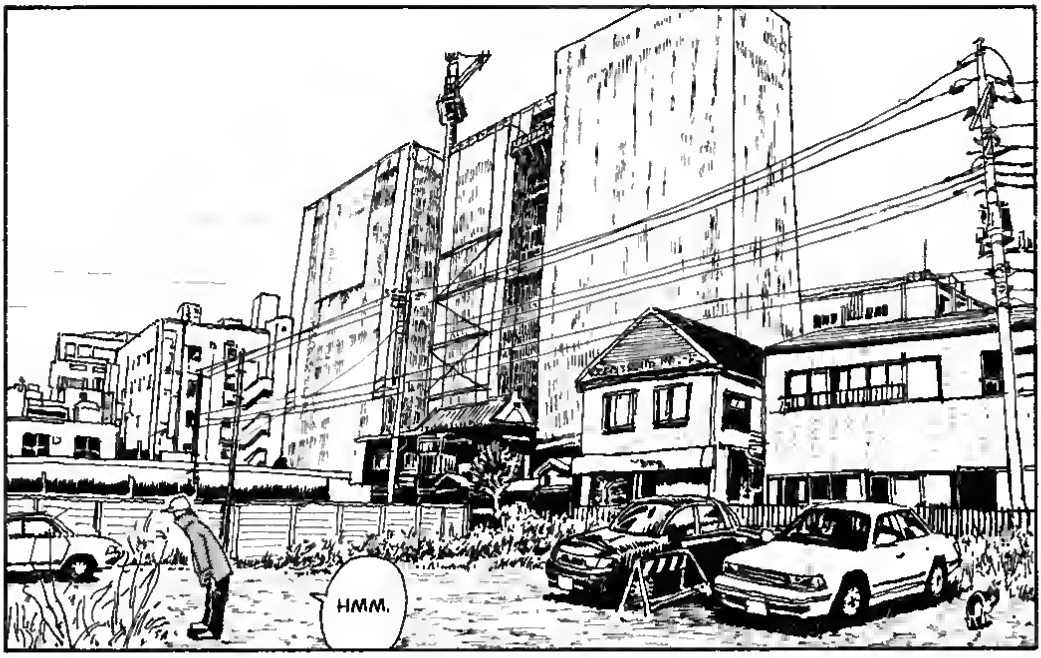
...

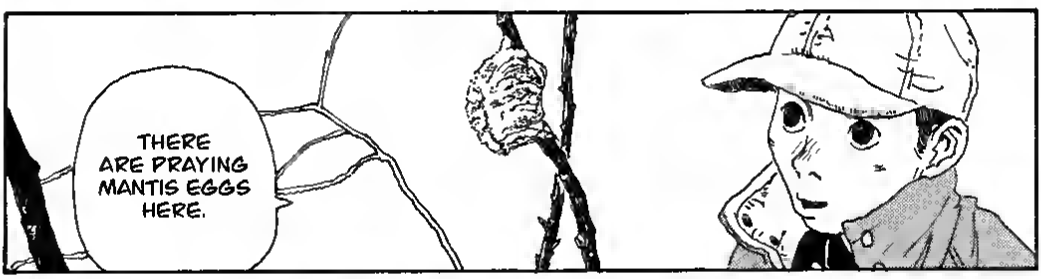
WHAT WAS THAT?

IT'S SNOW-ING.


...AH

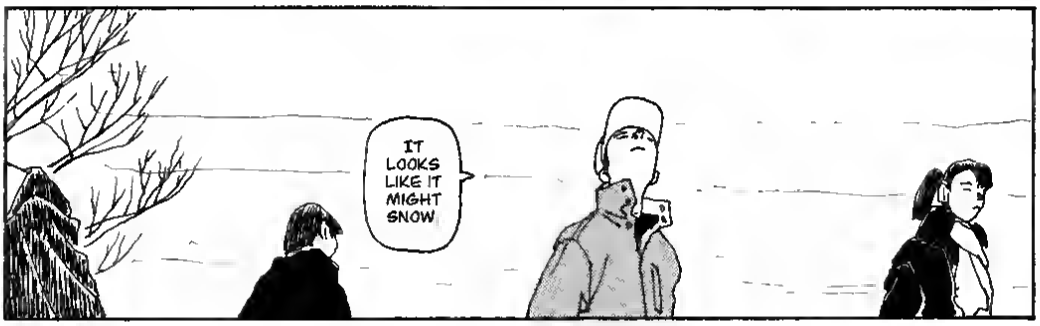
THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT OBSERVING THE FIGURE OF A LARGE FLYING MOTH IN MIDWINTER IS A HARBINGER OF SNOW.


HMM.

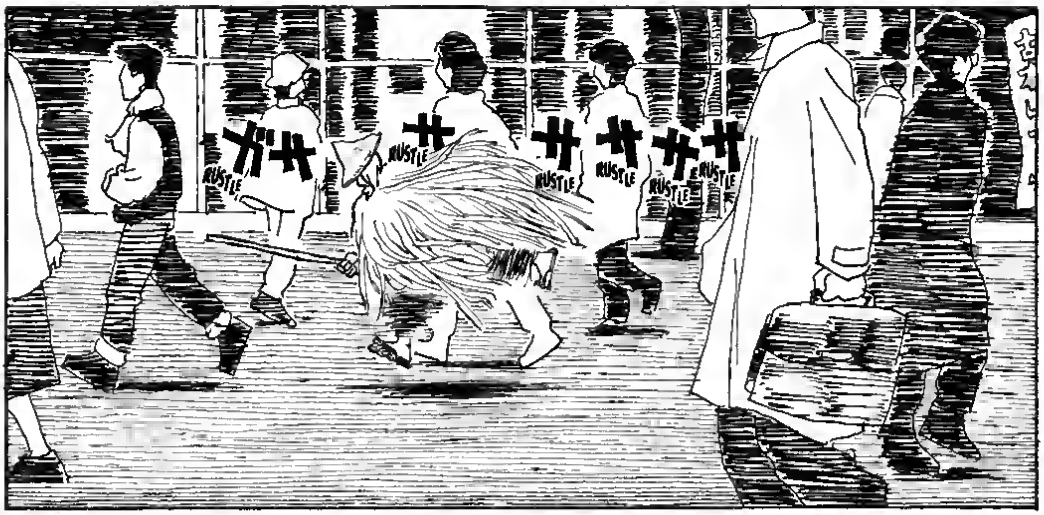

THERE ARE PRAYING MANTIS EGGS HERE.

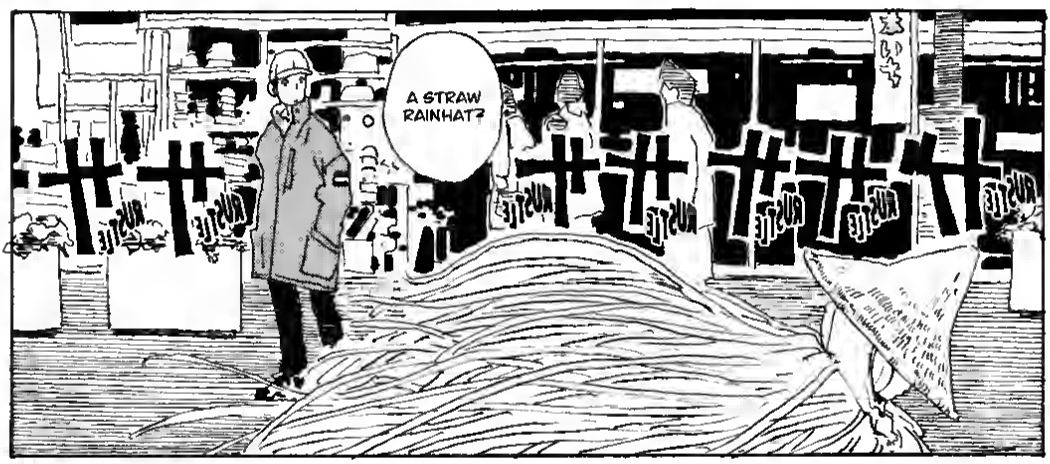
I GUESS.
SO THE SNOWFALL FOR THIS YEAR WON'T GET ANY HIGHER THAN THIS,

WELL, ACTUALLY, THE MANTISES INSIDE THOSE EGGS MIGHT BE LATE BLOOMERS.

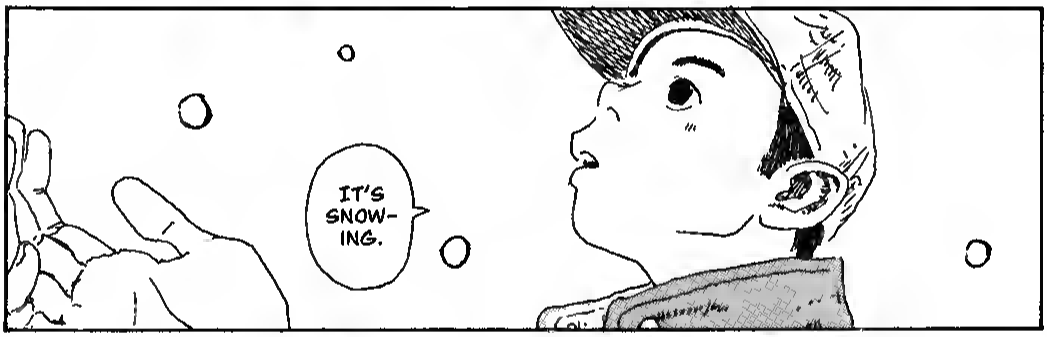

IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT SNOW.

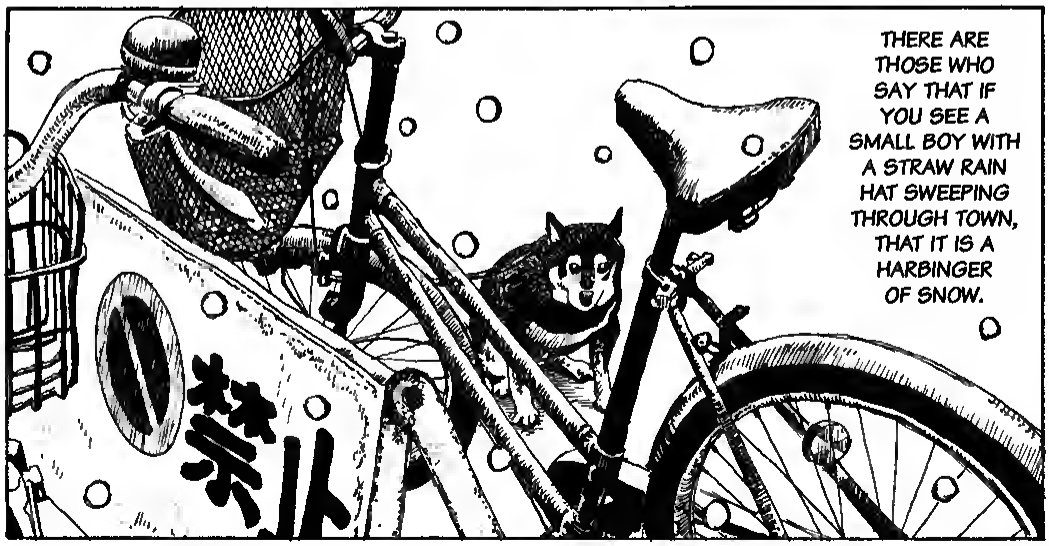
...
HUSTLE


RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


A STRAW RAINHAT?
RUSTLE

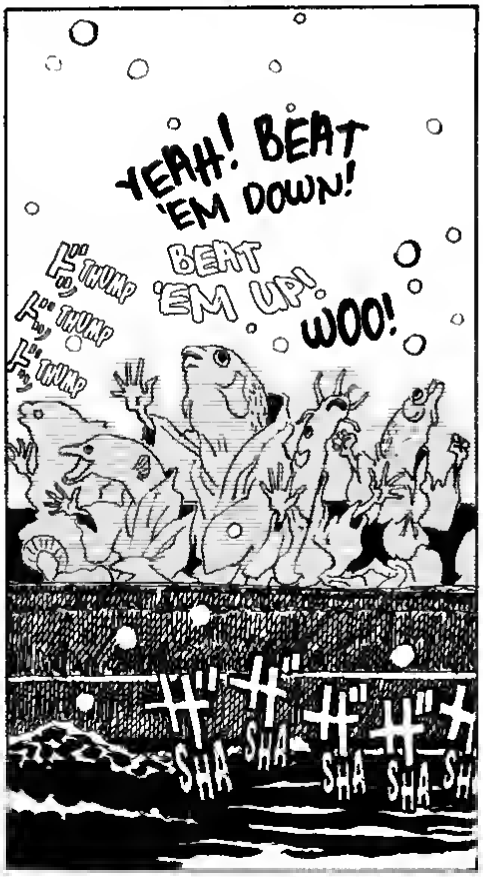
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


IT'S SNOW-ING.


THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT IF YOU SEE A SMALL BOY WITH A STRAW RAIN HAT SWEEPING THROUGH TOWN, THAT IT IS A HARBINGER OF SNOW.
禁止

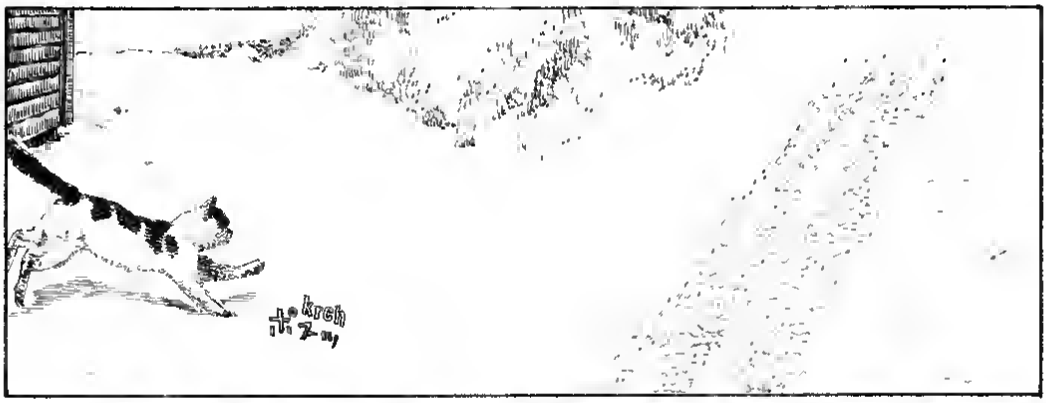
ドドド

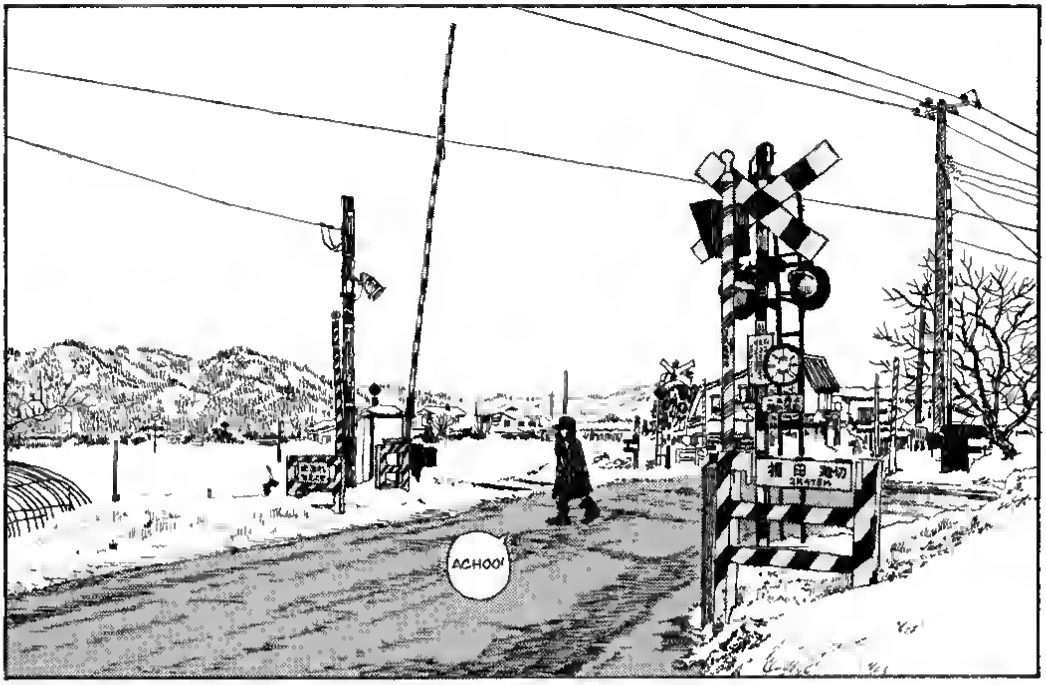
Yeah Yeah yeah!
Whoa Whoa Whoa!
Woo Woo Woo!
ドッドッ THUMP THUMP
ドッドッ THUMP THUMP
ドッドッ THUMP THUMP

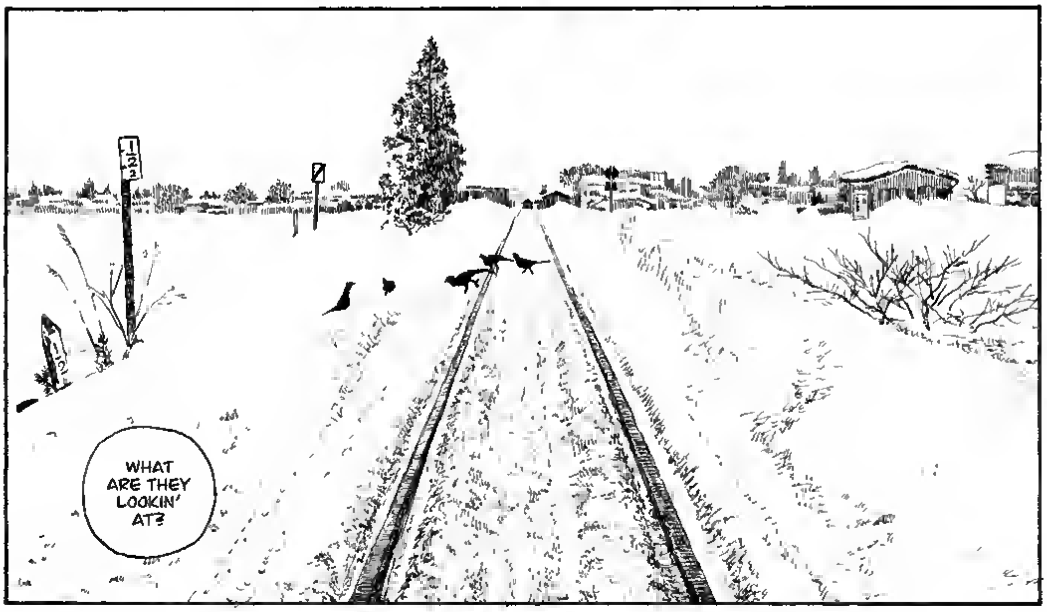


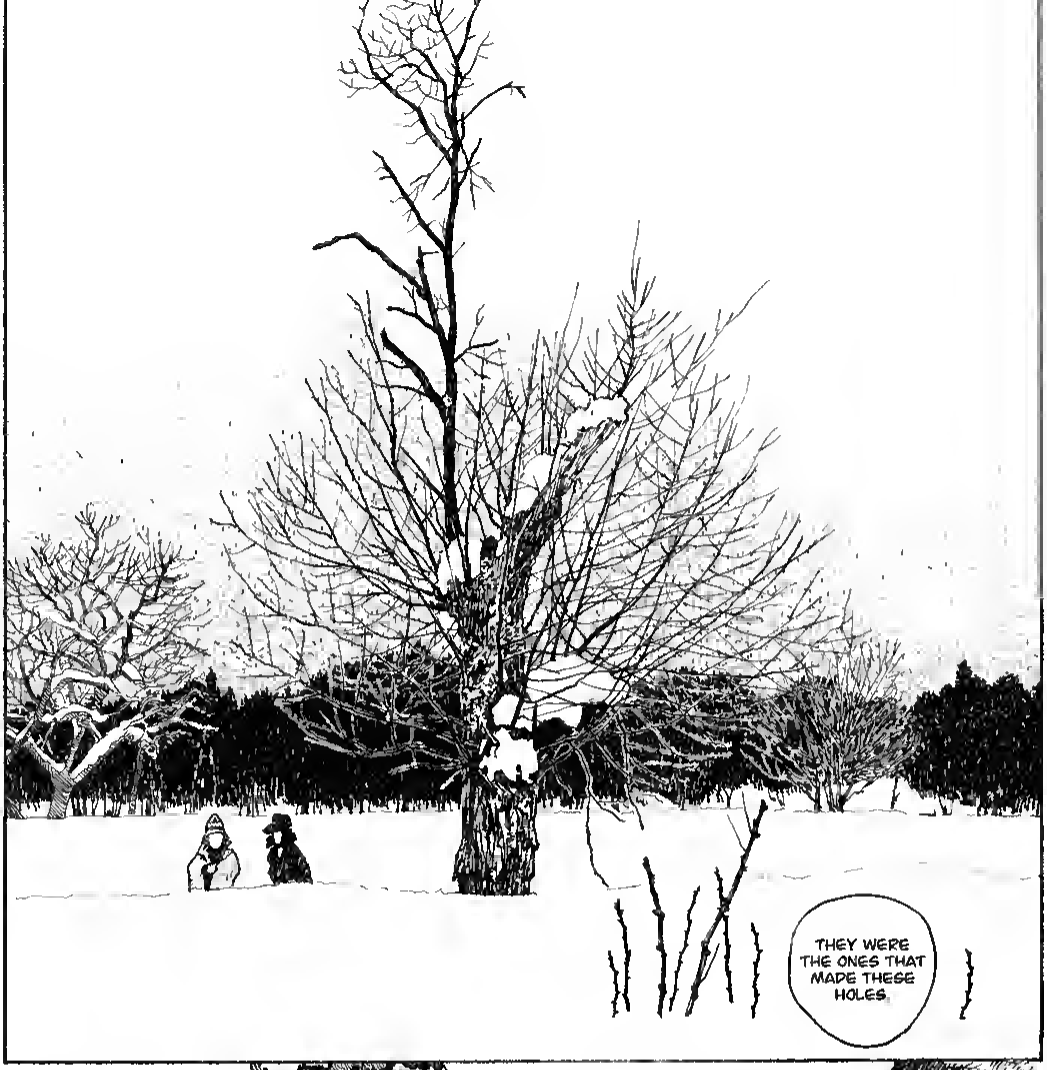
Chapter 38

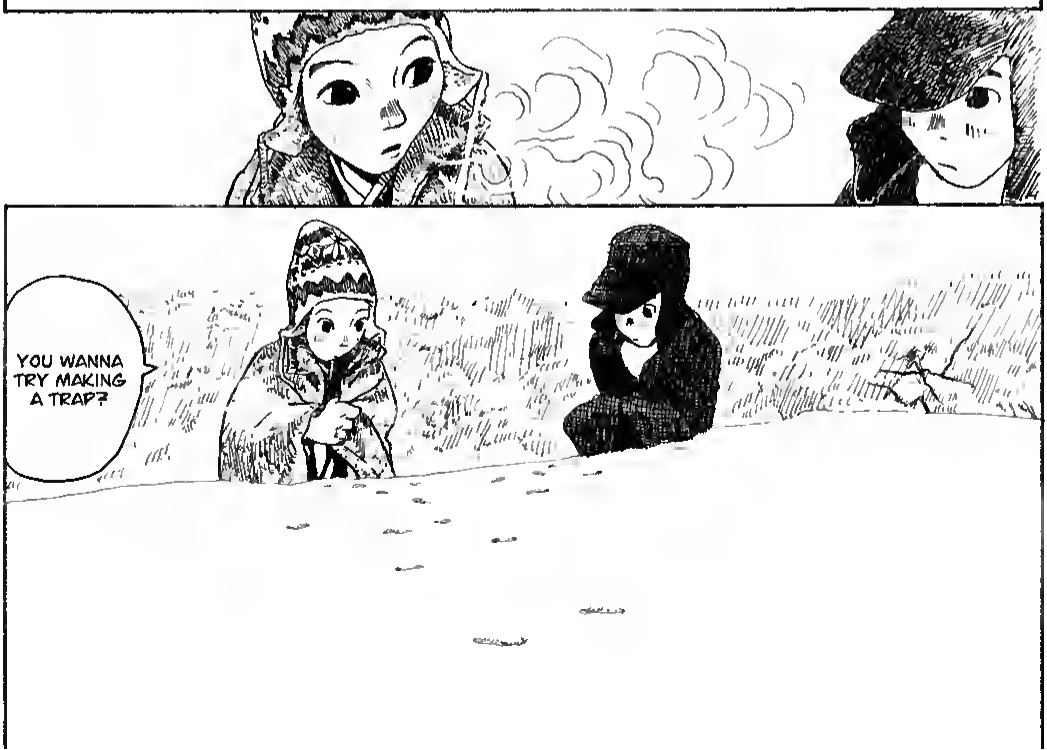
SNOW LANTERNS

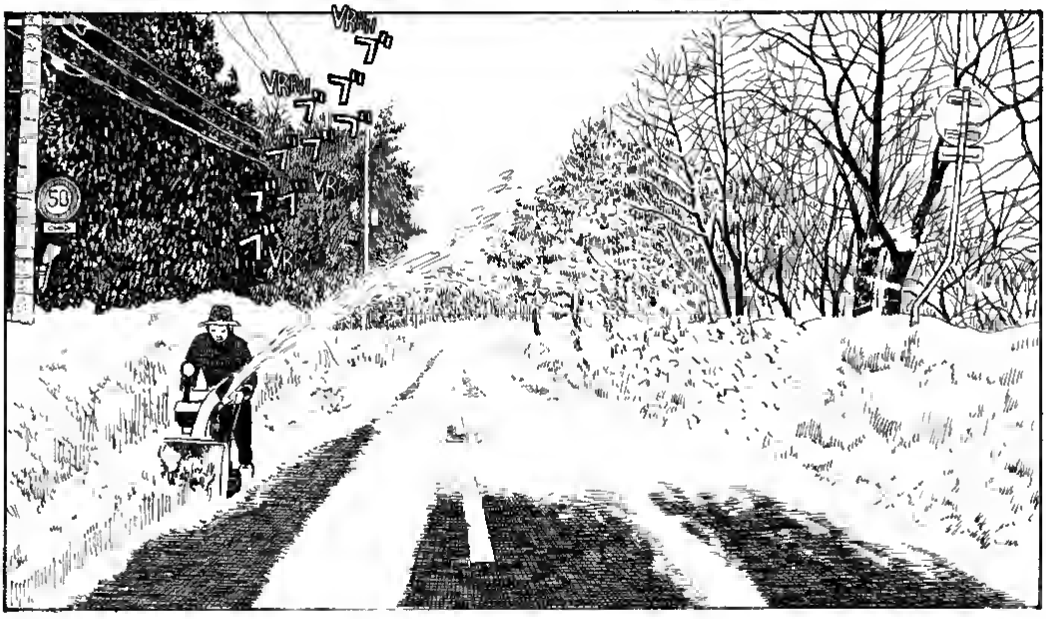


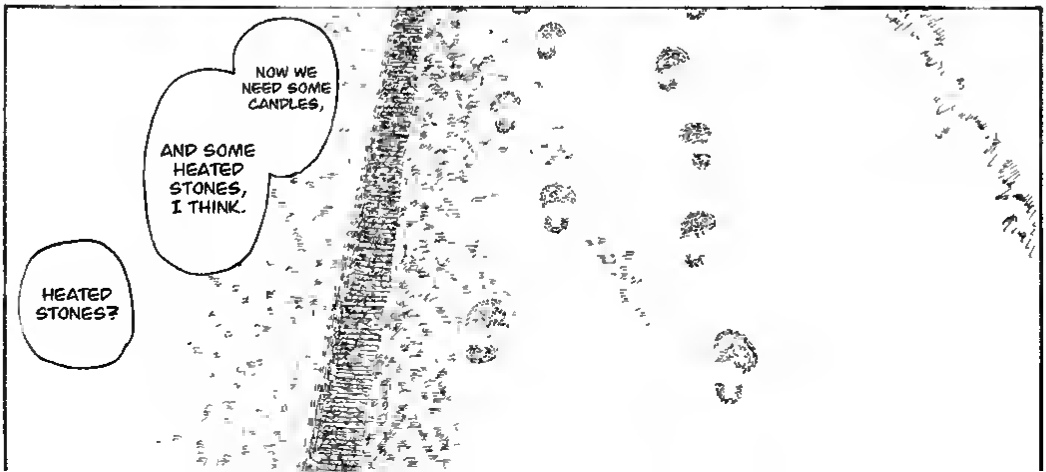

ACHOO!


WHAT ARE THEY LOOKIN' AT?


THEY WERE THE ONES THAT MADE THESE HOLES.


YOU WANNA TRY MAKING A TRAP?


VRRM
VRRM
50

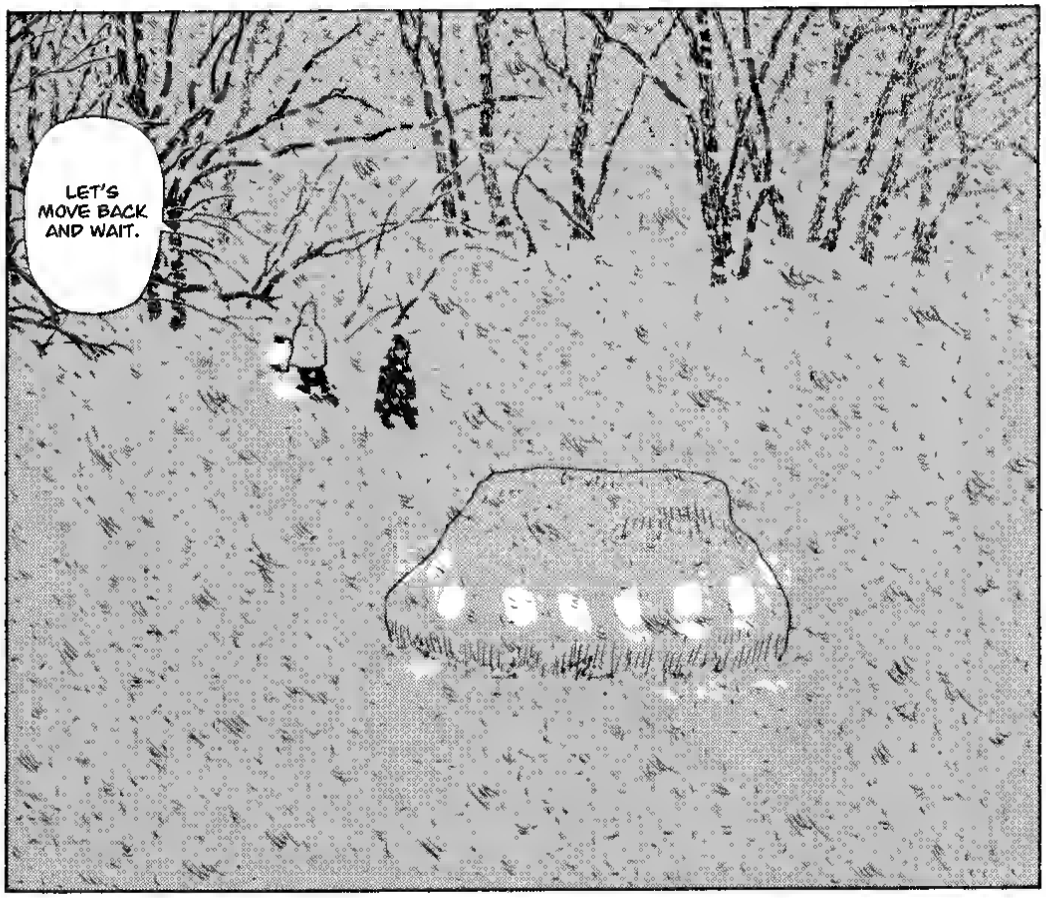

NOW WE NEED SOME CANDLES,
AND SOME HEATED STONES, I THINK.
HEATED STONES?

IT'S JUST LIKE A HEAT PACK.
YOU WRAP A BAKED STONE IN A CLOTH AND STUFF IT INTO YOUR POCKET.

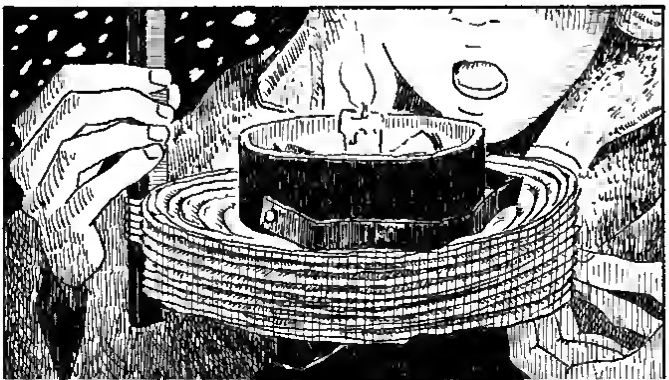
KNOW ABOUT WHAT?

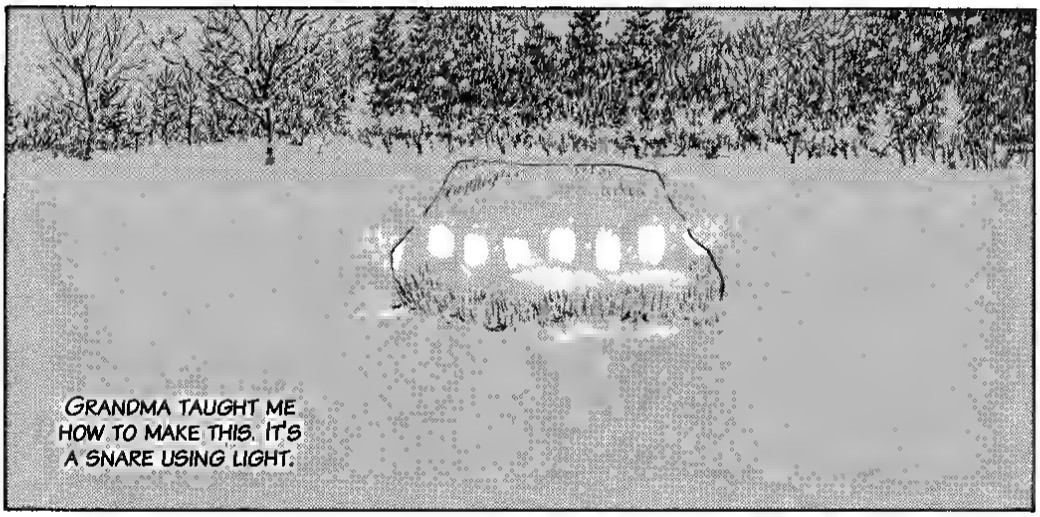
YOU CAN DO AS YOU WISH.
HEY, IT'S OKAY TO LET HIM KNOW ABOUT IT, RIGHT?

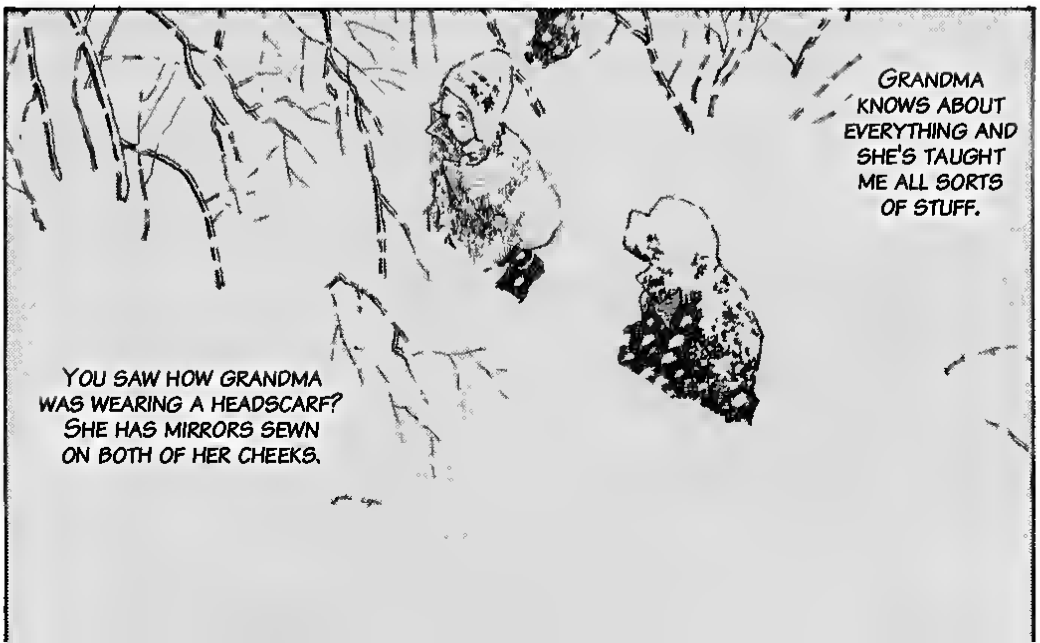
YOU'LL SEE.


LET'S MOVE BACK AND WAIT.

fssh




GRANDMA TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE THIS. IT'S A SNARE USING LIGHT.

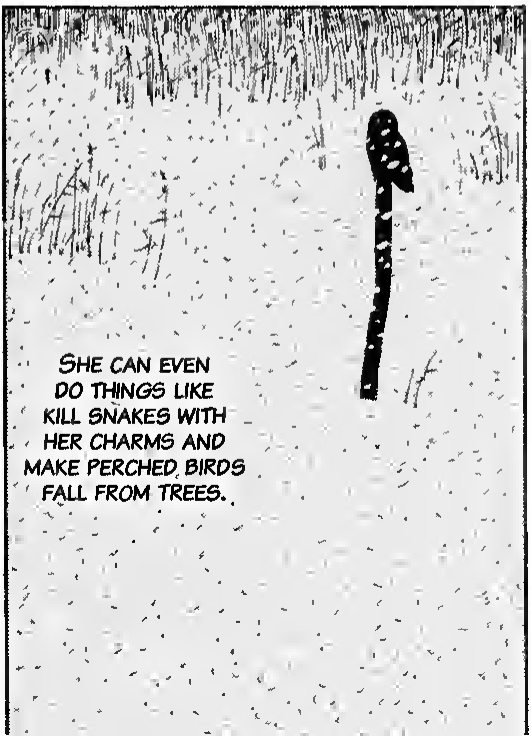

GRANDMA KNOWS ABOUT EVERYTHING AND SHE'S TAUGHT ME ALL SORTS OF STUFF.
YOU SAW HOW GRANDMA WAS WEARING A HEADSCARF? SHE HAS MIRRORS SEWN ON BOTH OF HER CHEEKS.

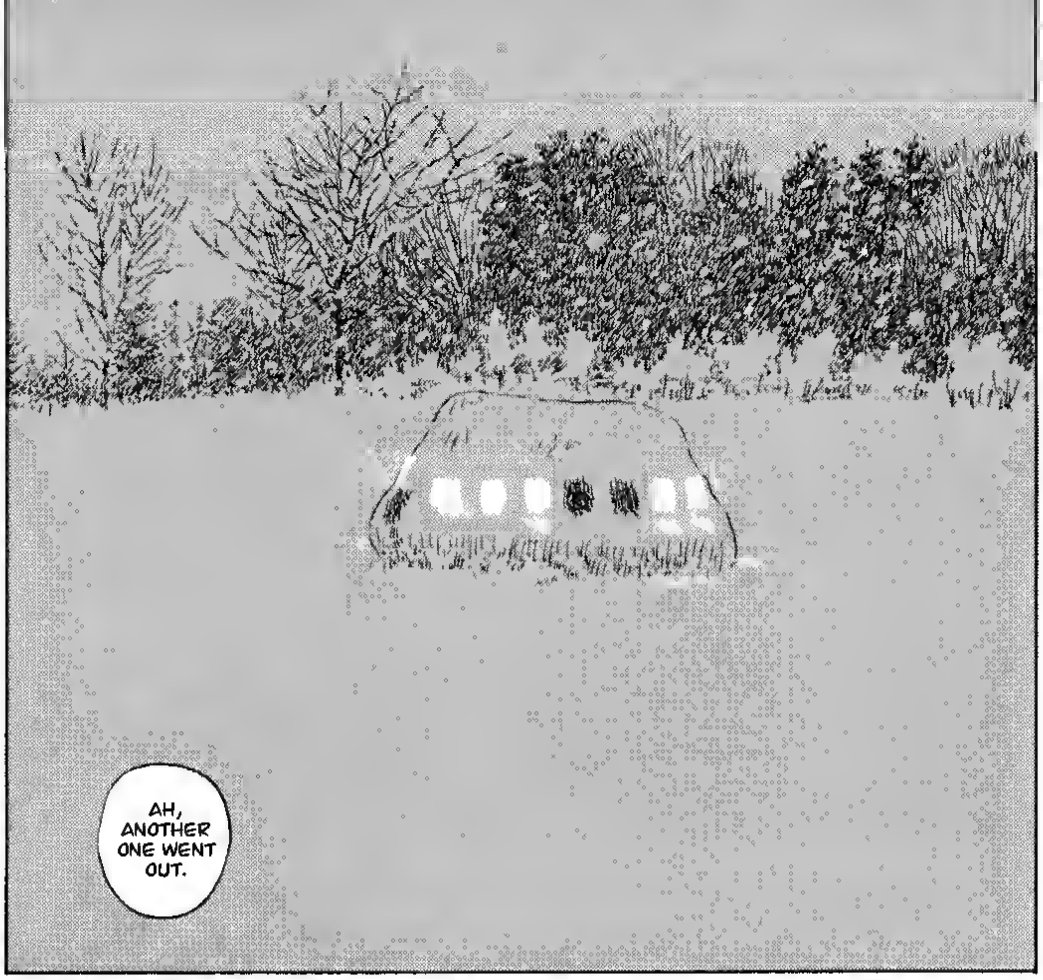
CRUCH

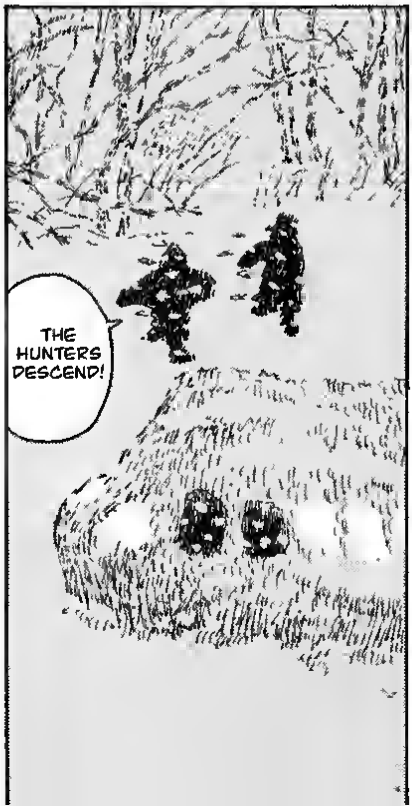
SHE SAYS THAT LOOKS OF HATRED HAVE THE POWER TO KILL,
GRANDMA SAID THAT WHEN SHE WAS GETTING MARRIED THERE WERE HORRIBLE GRUDGES HELD AGAINST HER.

SO SHE SEWED MIRRORS ON IN ORDER TO REFLECT THEIR GLARES.
CRACKLE

IT WENT OUT...

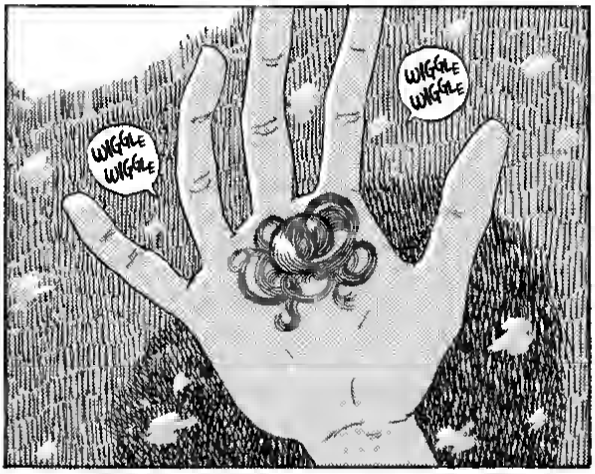

SHE CAN EVEN DO THINGS LIKE KILL SNAKES WITH HER CHARMS AND MAKE PERCHED BIRDS FALL FROM TREES.


AH, ANOTHER ONE WENT OUT.


THE HUNTERS DESCEND!

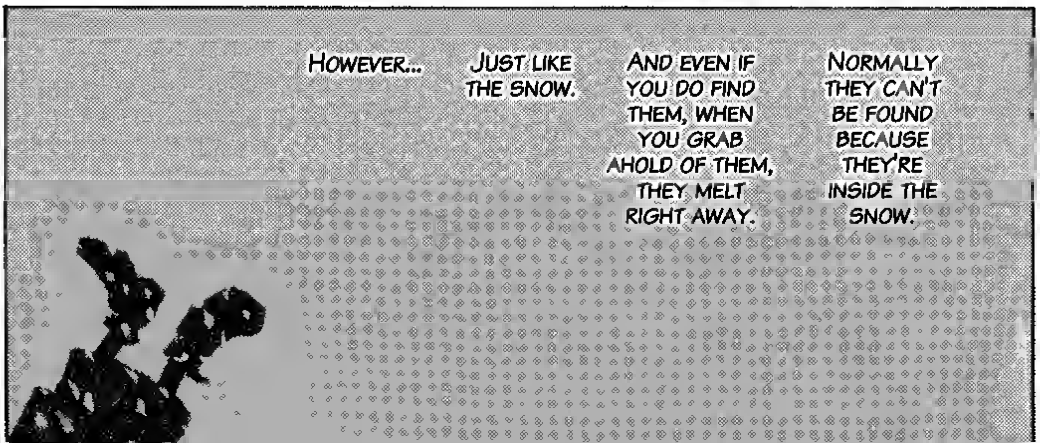
RUSTLE
LET'S GO.

CHECK THE HOLES WHERE THE FIRE HAS GONE OUT.
SOME-THING'S MOVING INSIDE...


WIGGLE WIGGLE
WIGGLE WIGGLE

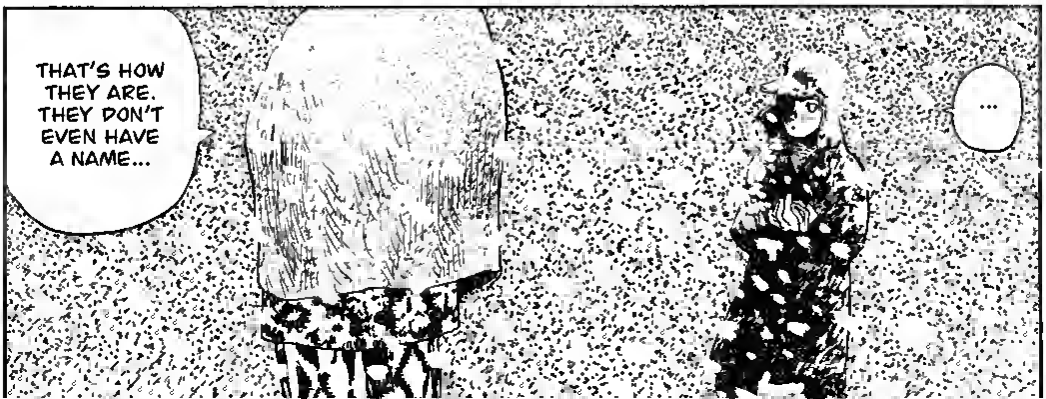
GRAB IT.

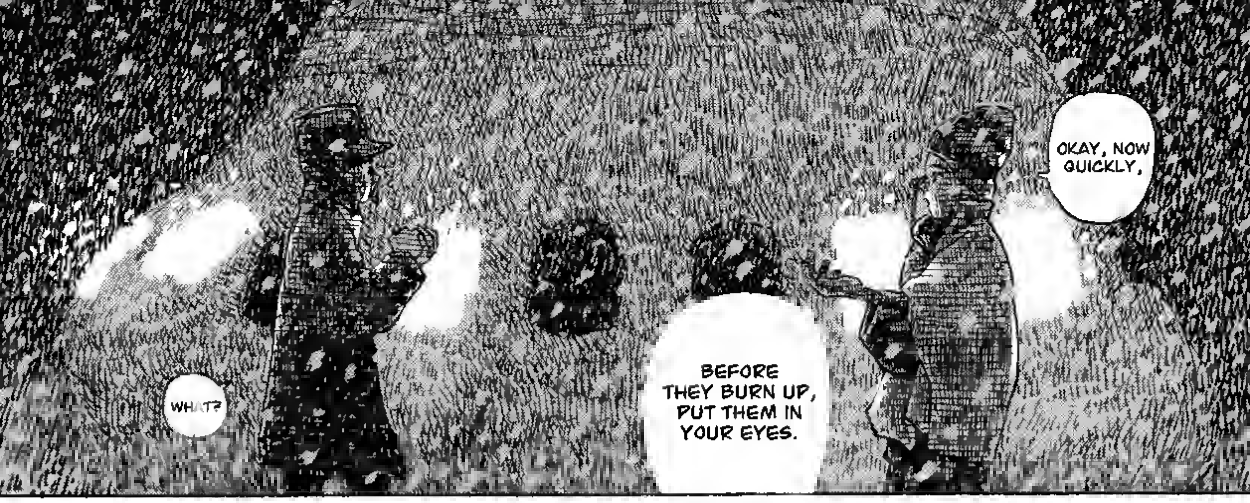
THEY CAME TO EAT THE FIRE.


HOWEVER...
JUST LIKE THE SNOW.
AND EVEN IF YOU DO FIND THEM, WHEN YOU GRAB AHOLD OF THEM, THEY MELT RIGHT AWAY.
NORMALLY THEY CAN'T BE FOUND BECAUSE THEY'RE INSIDE THE SNOW.

IF YOU MAKE A SNOW LANTERN LIKE THIS ONE, THEY COME TO EAT THE FIRE.

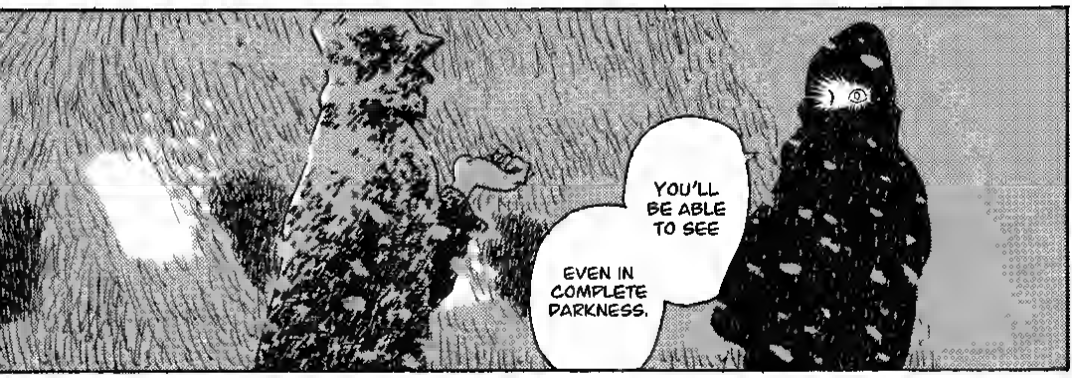
FOR A SHORT WHILE AFTER THEY CONSUME THE FIRE IT'S POSSIBLE TO CATCH THEM LIKE SO.




OKAY, NOW QUICKLY,
BEFORE THEY BURN UP, PUT THEM IN YOUR EYES.
WHAT?

ONCE IT'S INSIDE YOUR EYE IT'LL MELT RIGHT AWAY.
...
DON'T WORRY

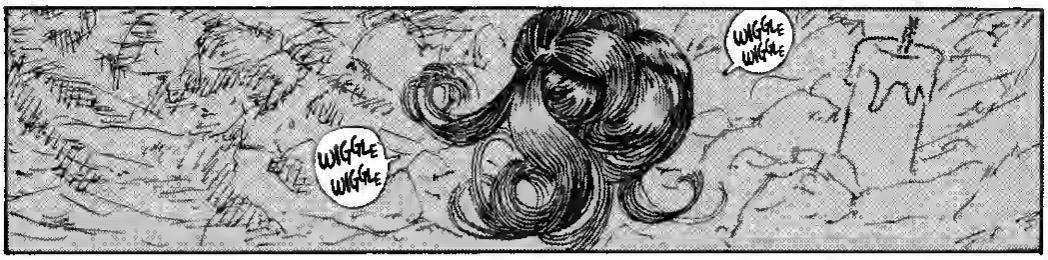
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THE DARK AND SEE THINGS.
IF YOU DO THAT THEN, UNTIL AROUND NEXT WINTER,


YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE
EVEN IN COMPLETE DARKNESS.

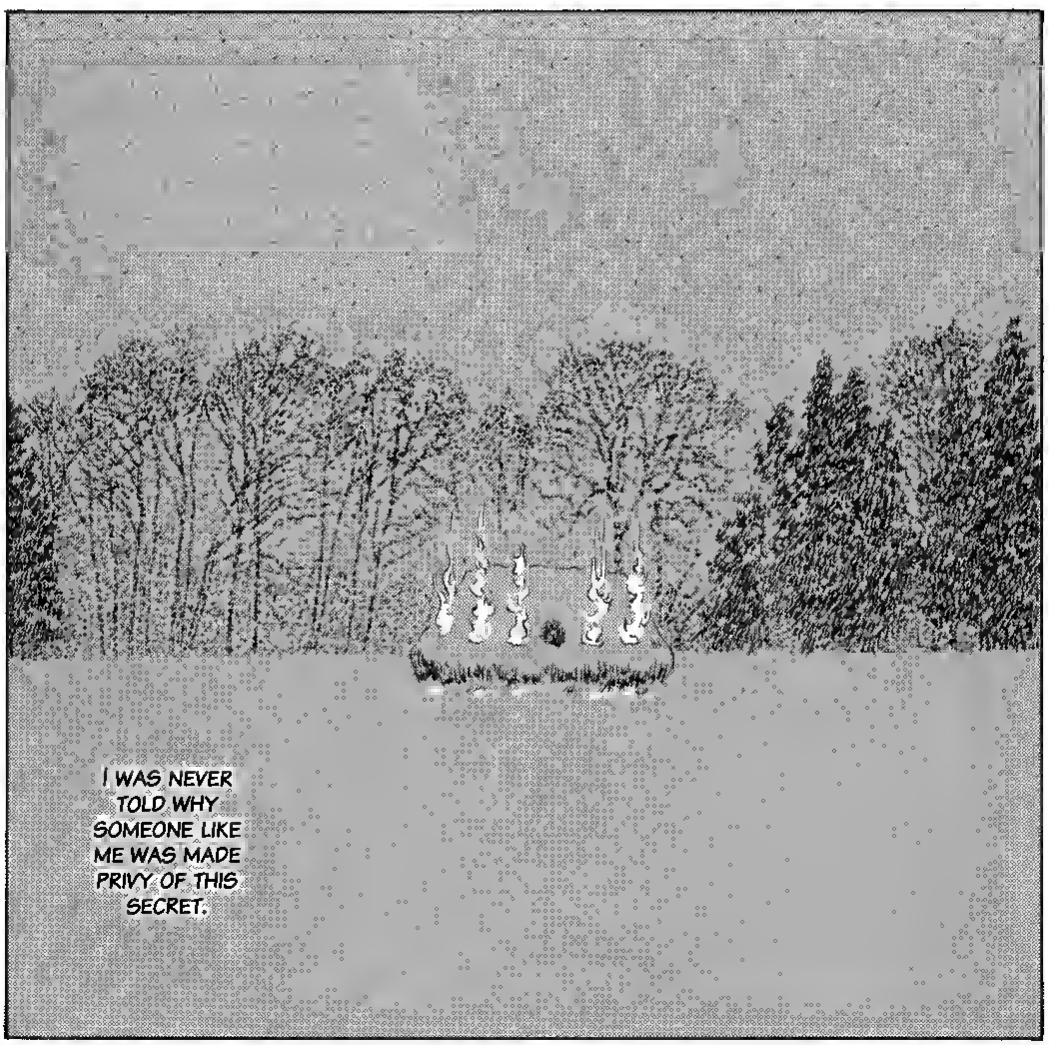
FSSH

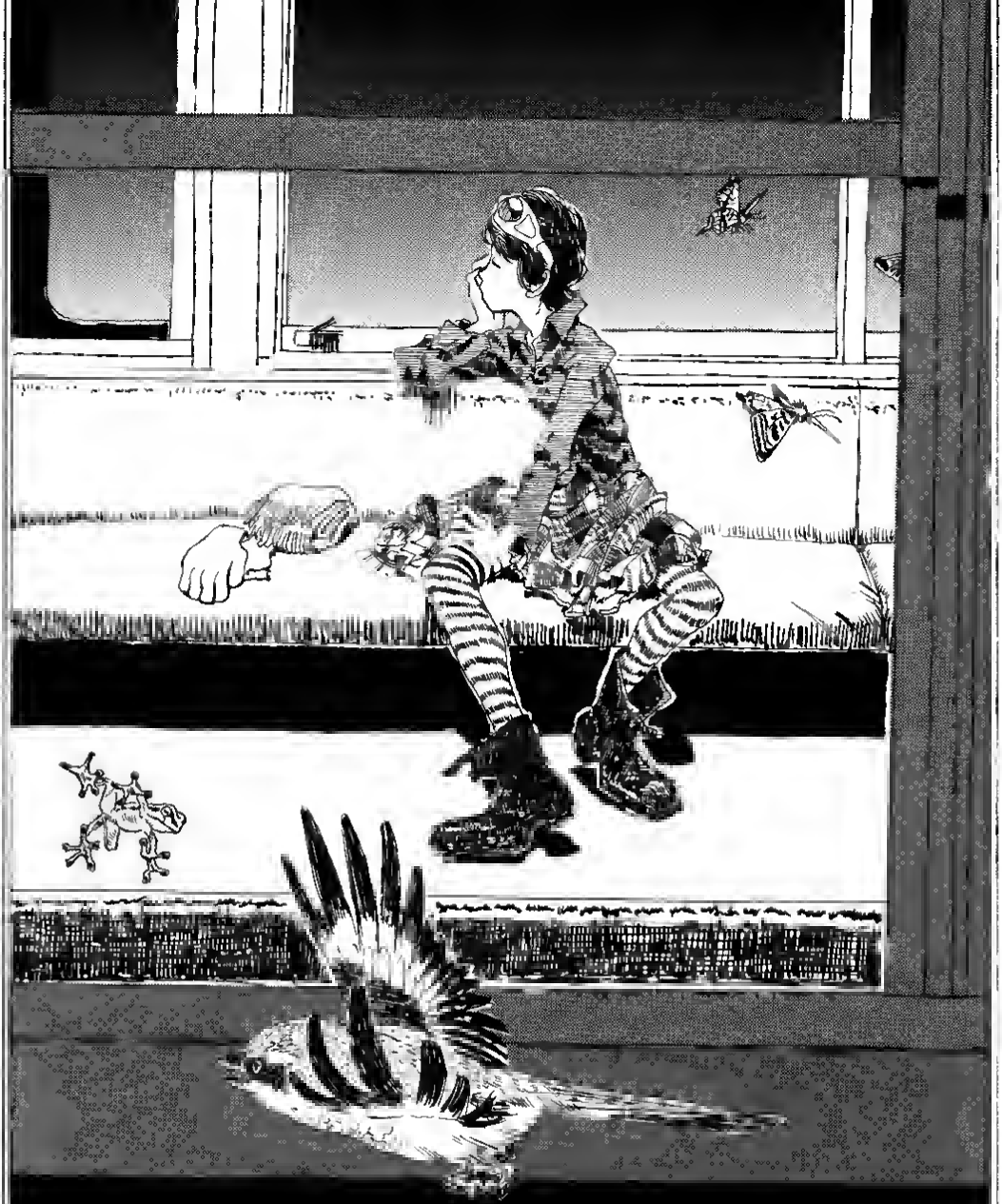
C'MON.
IF YOU DON T HURRY UP IT'LL BURST INTO FLAMES.

SUPPOSEDLY HUNTED AND CAUGHT BEASTS OFF GUARD IN THE DARK OF NIGHT.
THIS IS HOW PEOPLE FROM THE OLD DAYS


WIGGLE WIGGLE
WIGGLE WIGGLE

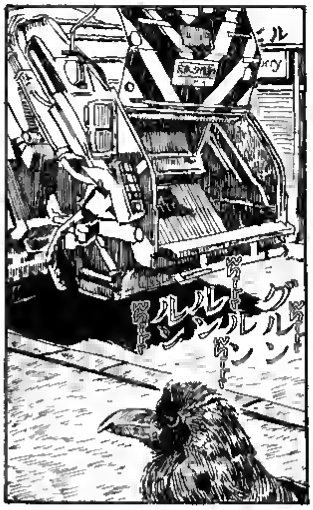
CRACKLE


I WAS NEVER TOLD WHY SOMEONE LIKE ME WAS MADE PRIVY OF THIS SECRET.

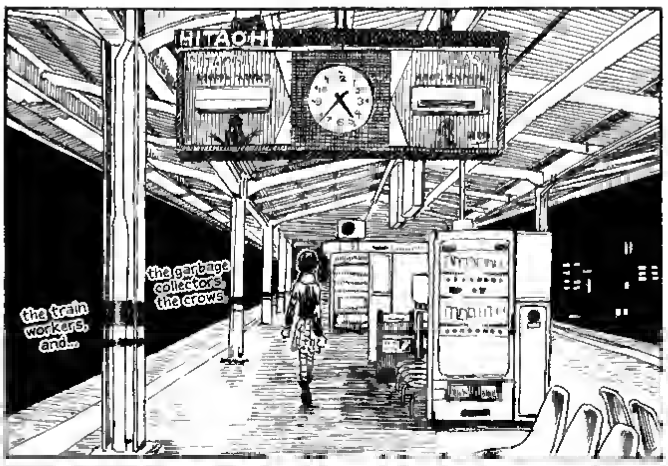


Chapter 39

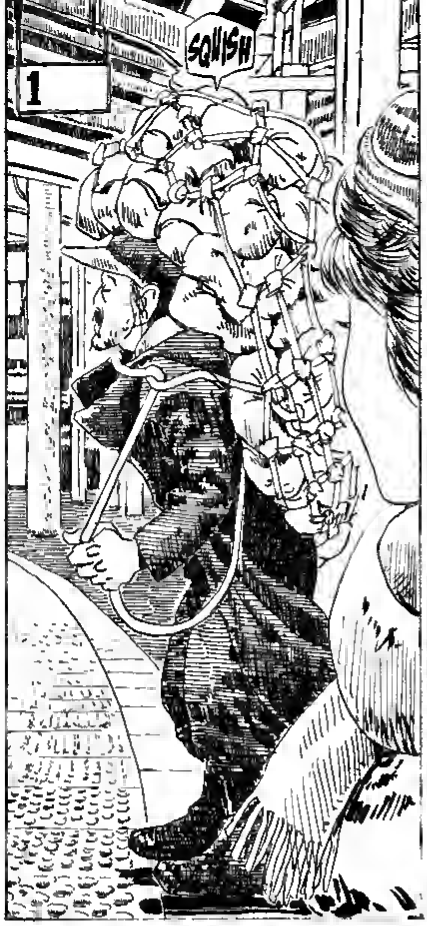
FUNERAL GOERS


グルルン
グルルン

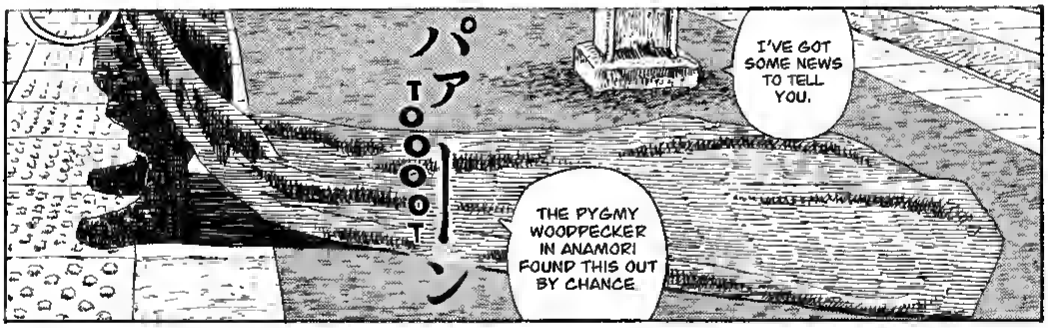
CAW
CAW


HITACHI
the garbage collectors, the crows
the train workers, and...

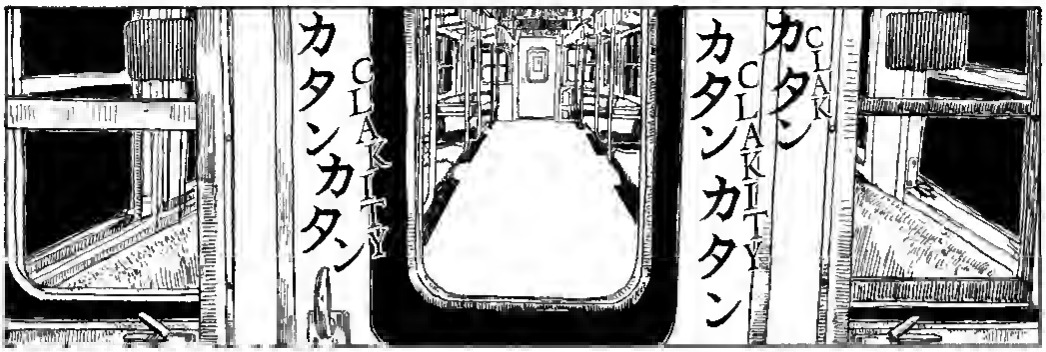
in the morning are
The earliest ones

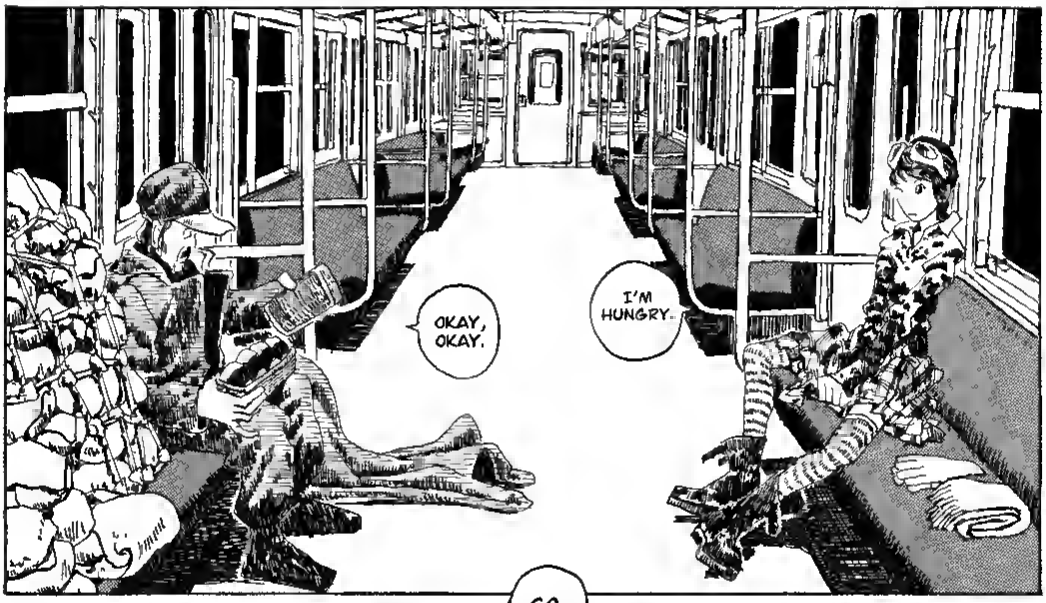

1
SQUISH

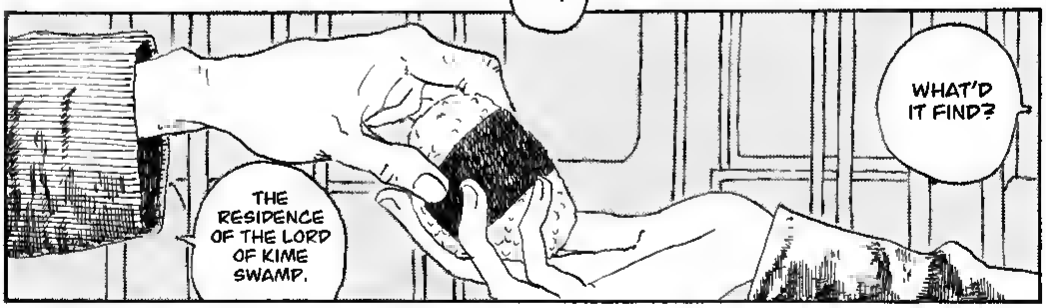
トン
トン


パア
TOOOOOT
I'VE GOT SOME NEWS TO TELL YOU.
THE PYGMY WOODPECKER IN ANAMORI FOUND THIS OUT BY CHANCE.

ガタタン
CLAKITYCLAK
ガタタンガタタン
CLAKITYCLAK


カタンカタン CLAKITY
カタンカタン CLAKITY
カタン CLAK


OKAY, OKAY.
I'M HUNGRY.


SO,
WHAT'D IT FIND?
THE RESIDENCE OF THE LORD OF KIME SWAMP.

YUP, THE FAMOUS ONE THEY USED TO CALL BIG OLD ZELKY.
TWIST

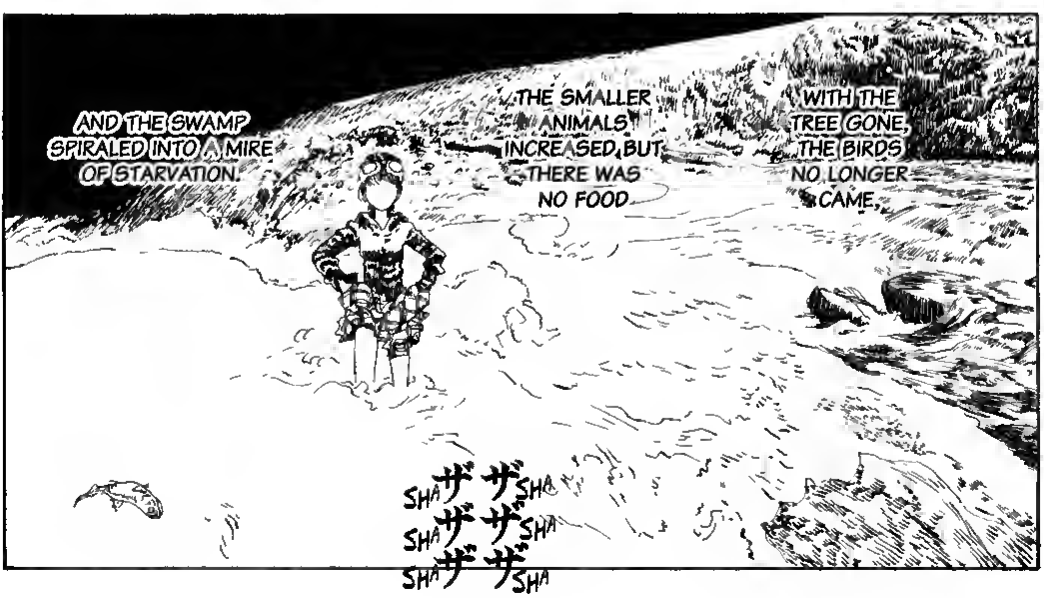
THAT'S THE ZELKOVA TREE, ISN'T IT?
OF KIME SWAMP?

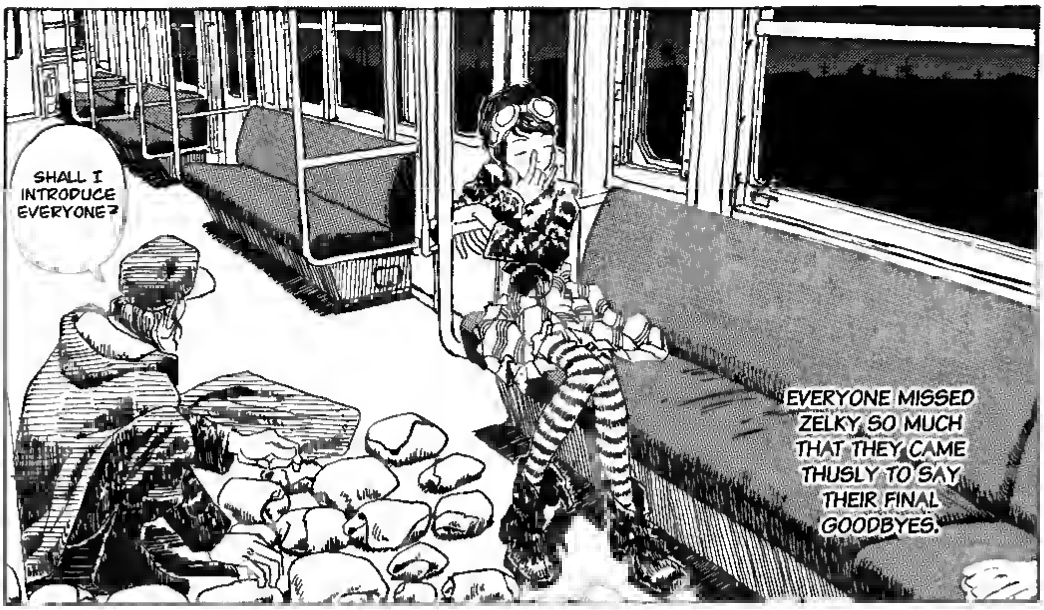
*One of the twenty four divisions of the solar year

ガタガタガタ
CLAKITI CLAK CLAKITI
THE BUGS ARE ONE OF THE MAJOR FOOD SOURCES FOR THE ANIMALS OF THE SWAMP.
ガタ
CLAK

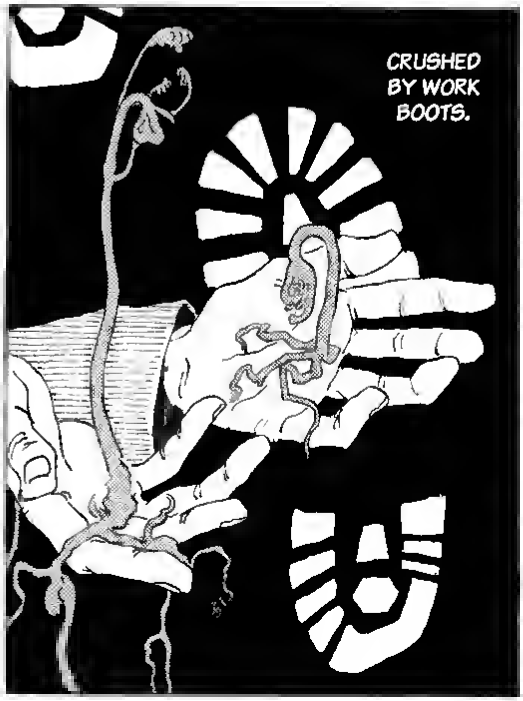
THE BIRDS-OF-PREY THAT USED THE SWAMP AS A PLACE TO FEED USED ZELKY TO WATCH OVER THE AREA, SO,

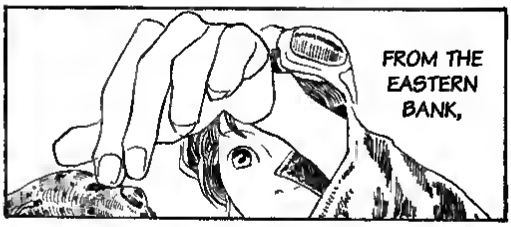
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE,

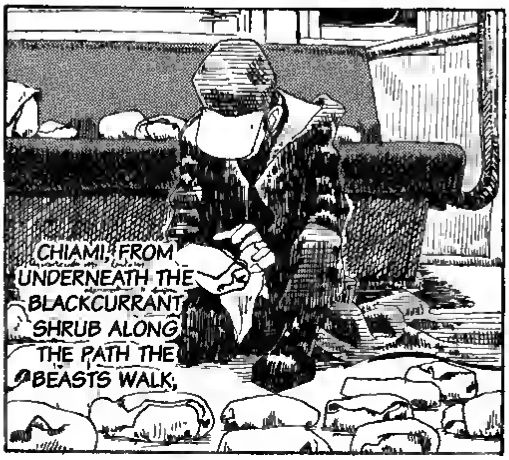

AND THE SWAMP SPIRALED INTO A MIRE OF STARVATION.
THE SMALLER ANIMALS INCREASED, BUT THERE WAS NO FOOD.
WITH THE TREE GONE, THE BIRDS NO LONGER CAME.
SHA ザ ザ SHA
SHA ザ ザ SHA
SHA ザ ザ SHA

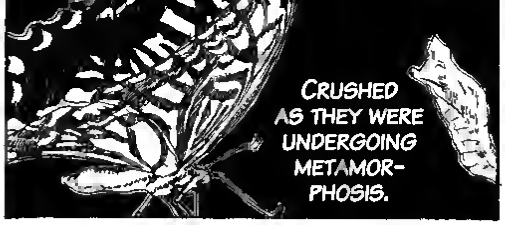

SHALL I INTRODUCE EVERYONE?
EVERYONE MISSED ZELKY SO MUCH THAT THEY CAME THUSLY TO SAY THEIR FINAL GOODBYES.

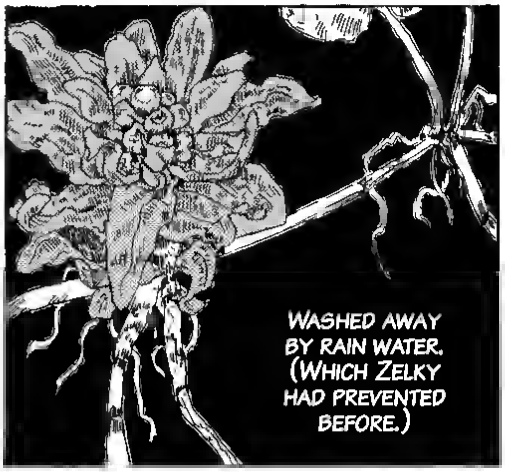
OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND TWO SAKURATA AND SAKURAZA BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM THE MOUNTAIN STREAM, THE TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY THAT DIED OF STARVATION.

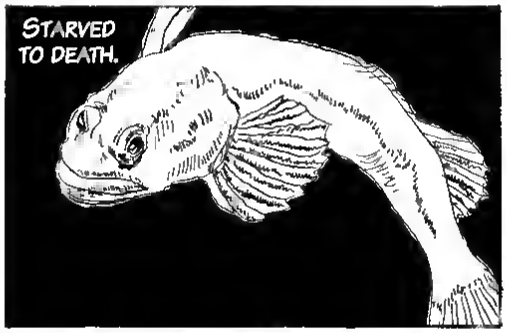

CRUSHED BY WORK BOOTS.

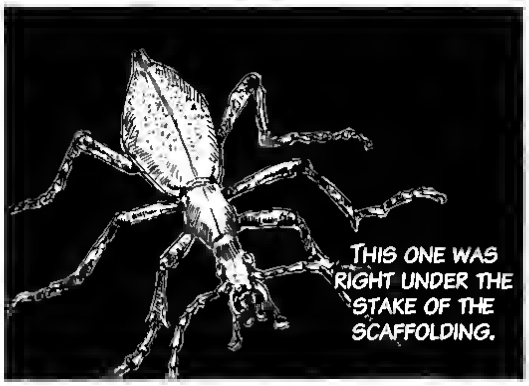

FROM THE EASTERN BANK,


CHIAMI: FROM UNDERNEATH THE BLACKCURRANT SHRUB ALONG THE PATH THE BEASTS WALK,


CRUSHED AS THEY WERE UNDERGOING METAMOR-PHOSIS.


WASHED AWAY BY RAIN WATER. (WHICH ZELKY HAD PREVENTED BEFORE.)


STARVED TO DEATH.

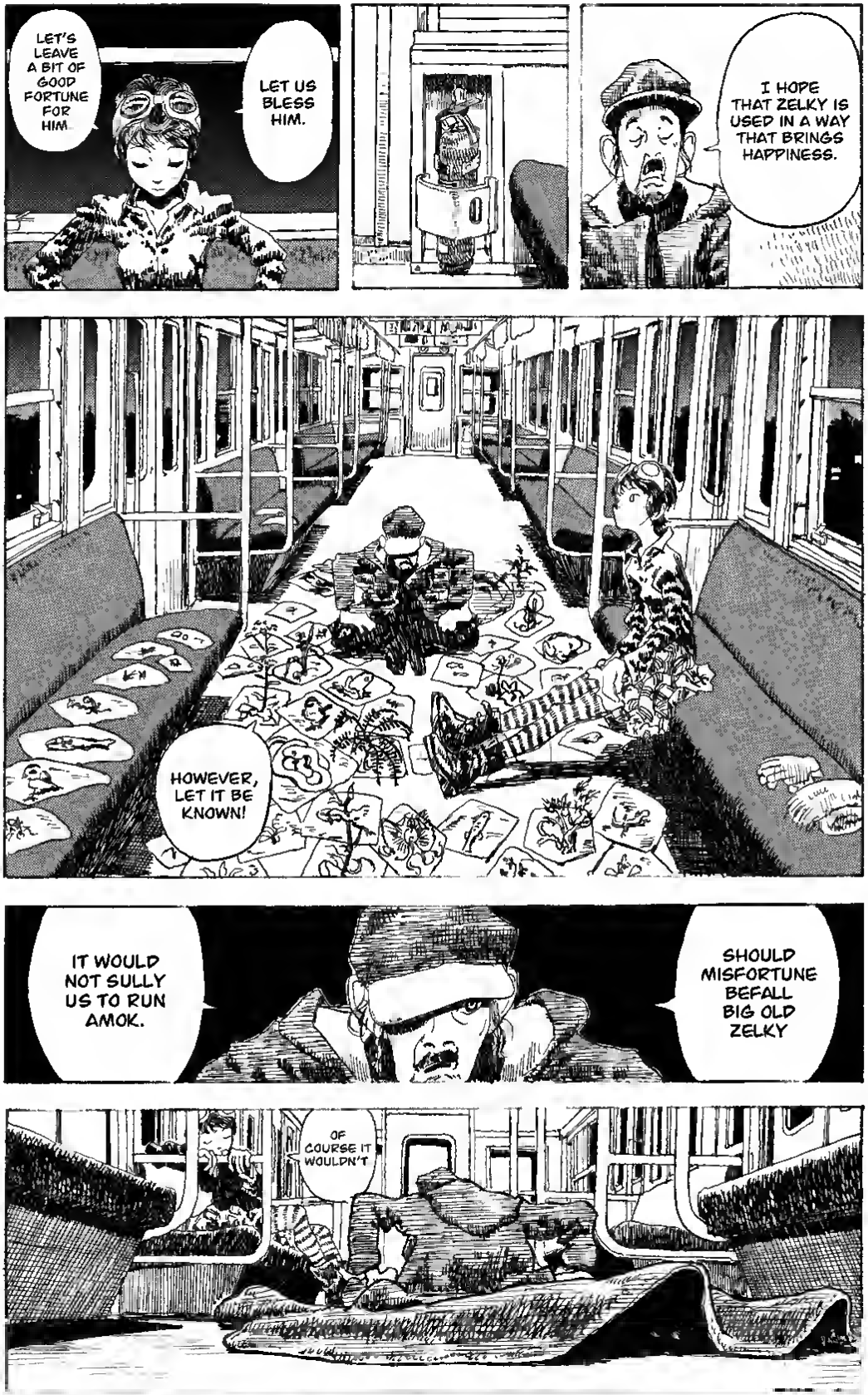

THIS ONE WAS RIGHT UNDER THE STAKE OF THE SCAFFOLDING.

TRAMPLED UNDER-NEATH MACHINERY.

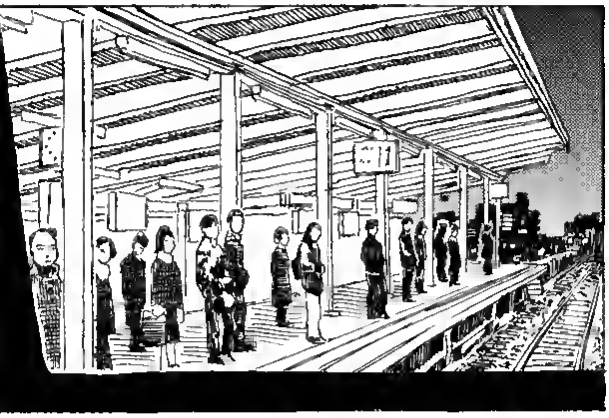
FELL INTO THE STREAM ALONG WITH CLUMPS OF DIRT.

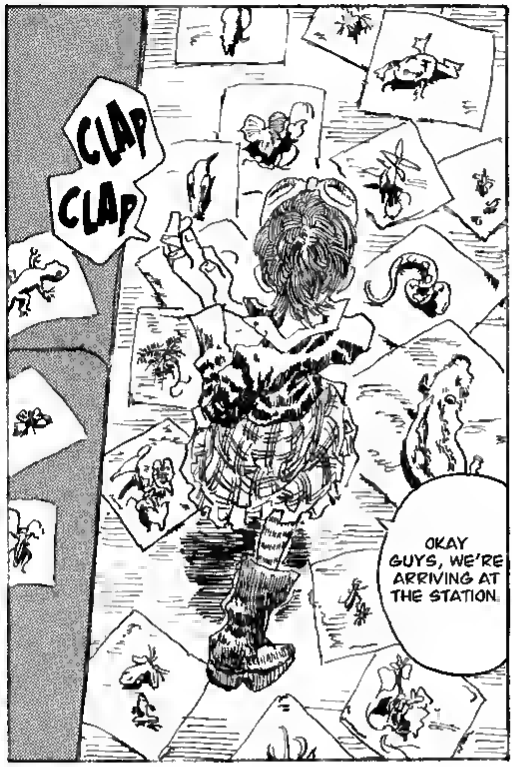
タンガタタタンガタ
CLAKITY CLAK
CLAKITY CLAK

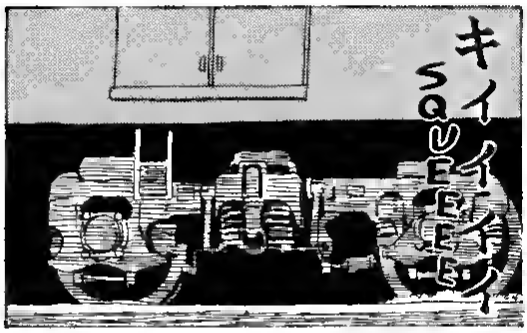
EARLY EVERY MORNING ON AN EMPTY CAR ON THE FIRST TRAIN OF THE DAY,
THE WHISPERED SPEECH OF THOSE HEADED FOR A FUNERAL SOUND OUT.
ZELKY WILL BE LIVING AMONG PEOPLE FROM NOW ON.

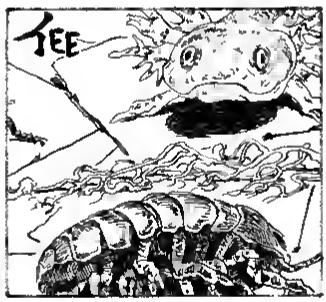

LET'S LEAVE A BIT OF GOOD FORTUNE FOR HIM.
LET US BLESS HIM.
I HOPE THAT ZELKY IS USED IN A WAY THAT BRINGS HAPPINESS.
HOWEVER, LET IT BE KNOWN!
IT WOULD NOT SULLY US TO RUN AMOK.
SHOULD MISFORTUNE BEFALL BIG OLD ZELKY
OF COURSE IT WOULDN'T

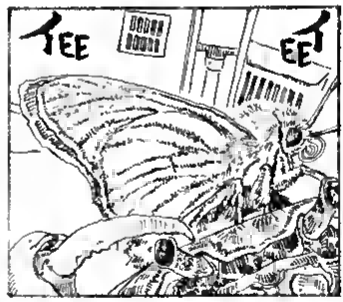
TO GO WILD TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT.

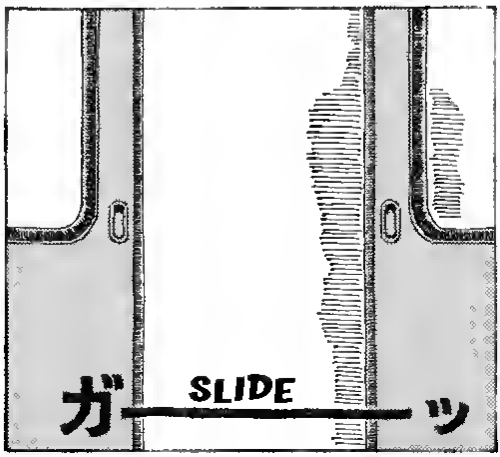


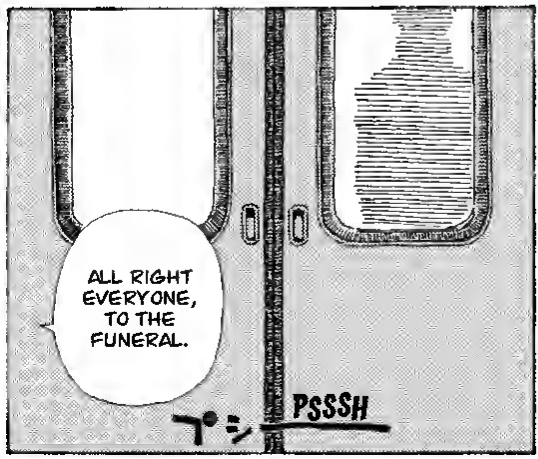






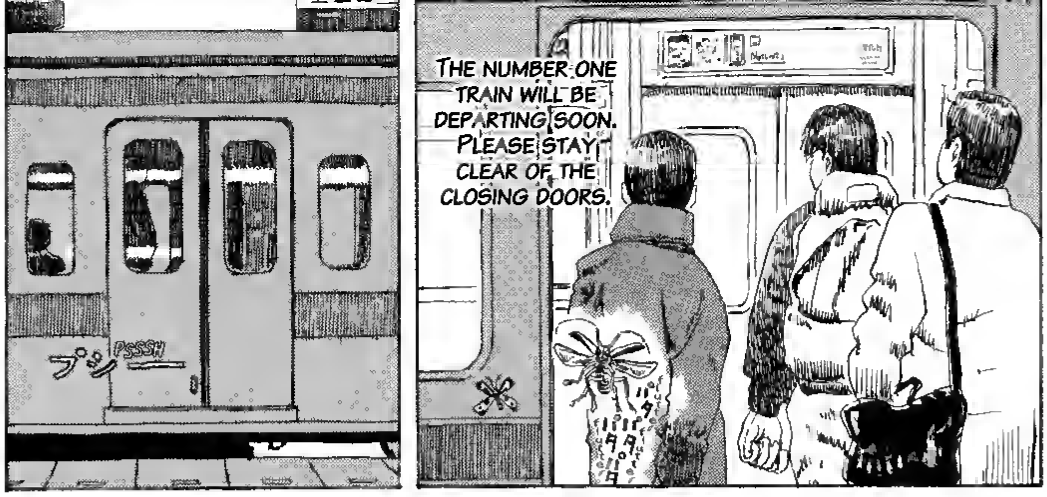


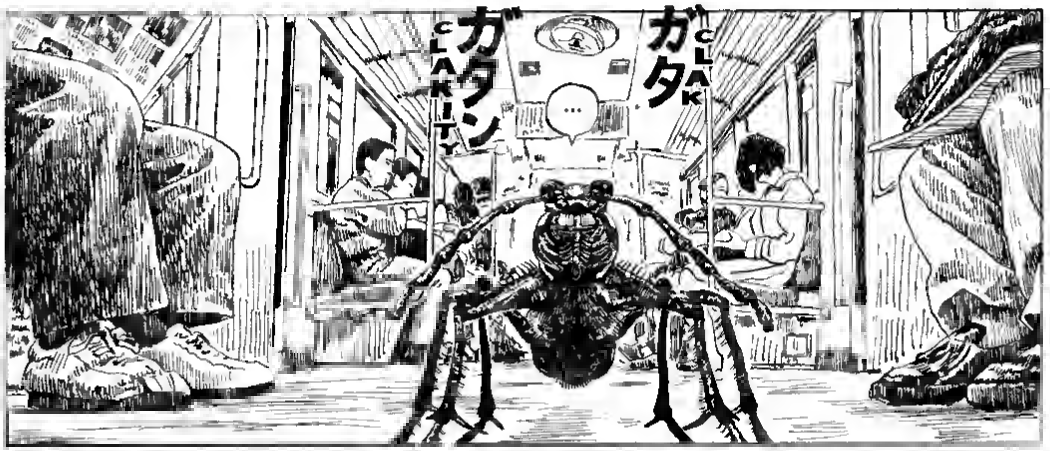


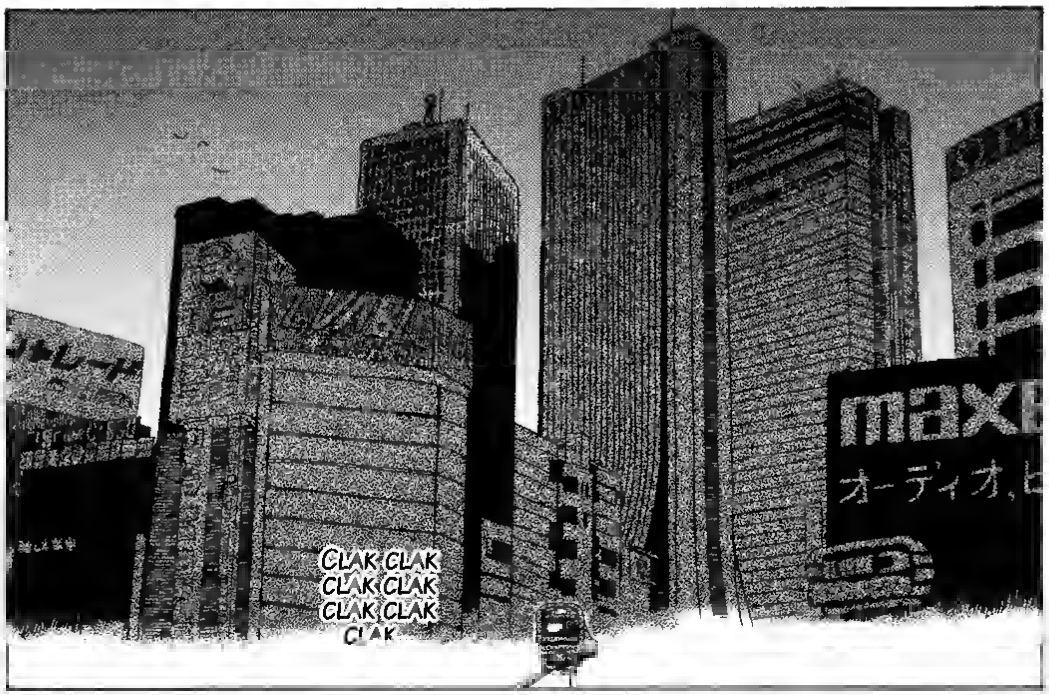


ぎくあっ
WHOOSH

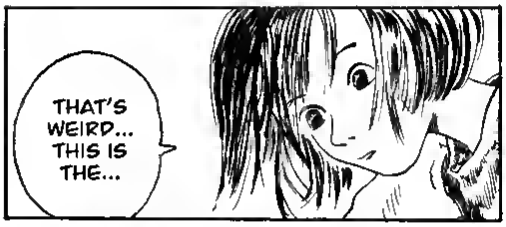
1

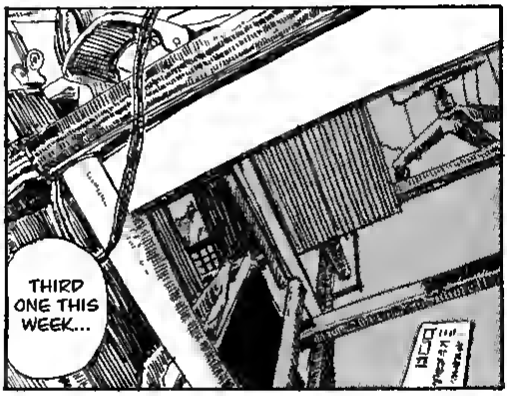

プシー
PSSSH
THE NUMBER ONE TRAIN WILL BE DEPARTING SOON. PLEASE STAY CLEAR OF THE CLOSING DOORS.

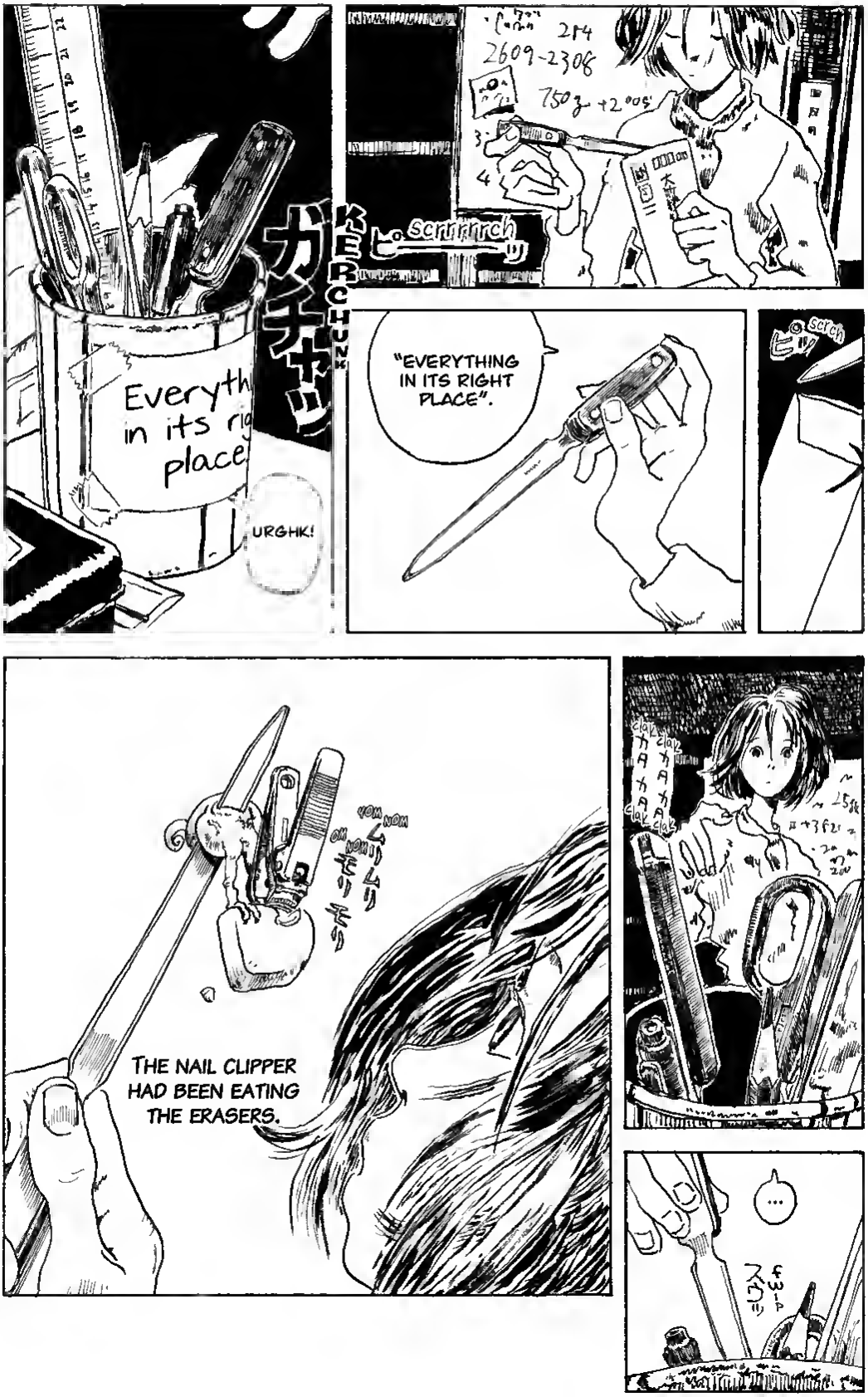

ガタン
CLANK
ガタ
CLAK
...


CLAK CLAK
CLAK CLAK
CLAK CLAK
CLAK
max
オーディオ

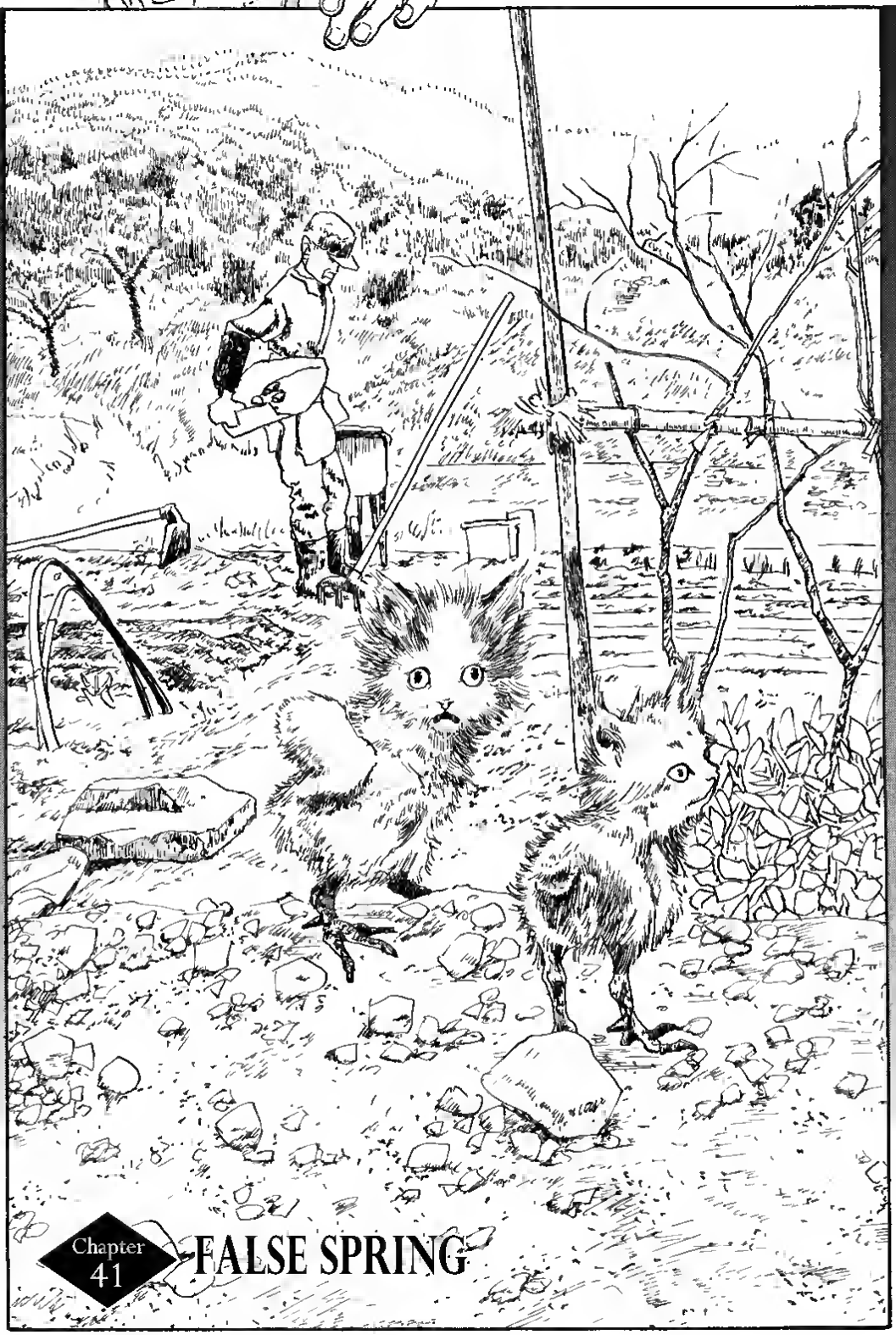
Chapter 40 ERASED ERASER







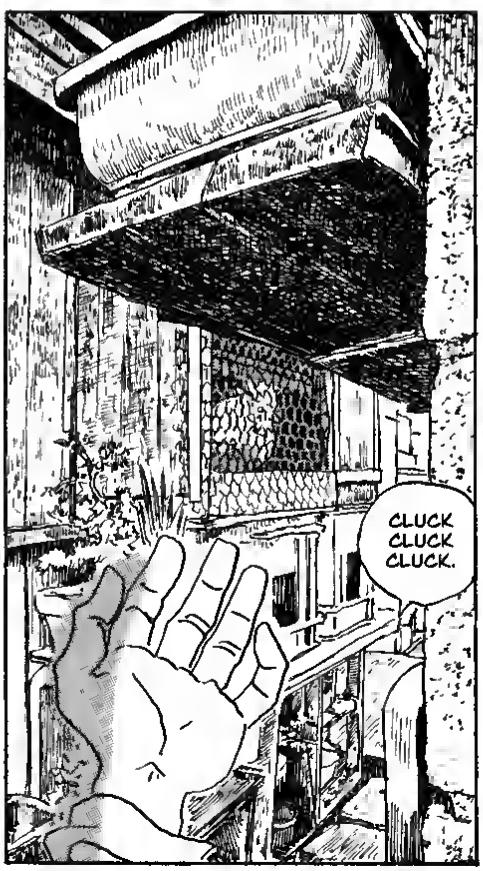
ガチャッ
KERCHUNK
ピーーーッ
scrrrrrch
Everyth
in its ri
place
URGHK!
"EVERYTHING IN ITS RIGHT PLACE".
ピッ
scrch
THE NAIL CLIPPER HAD BEEN EATING THE ERASERS.
YOM NOM
ムリムリ
OH NOM
モリモリ
clak
カタカタ
...



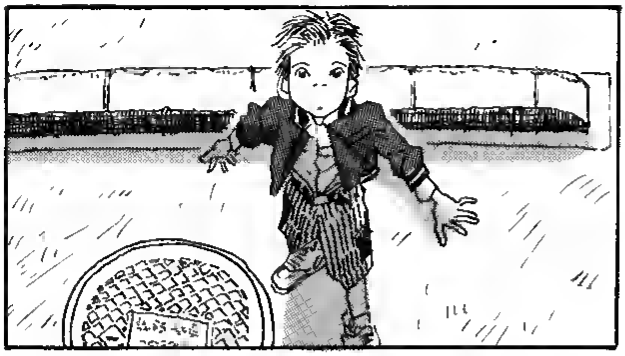
Chapter 41

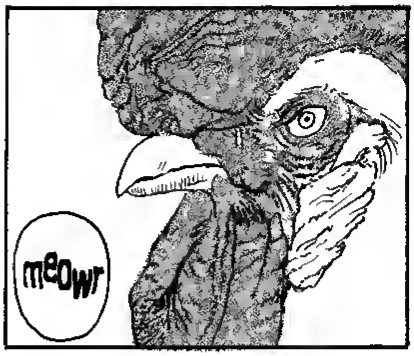
FALSE SPRING

OH, CHICK-ENS!

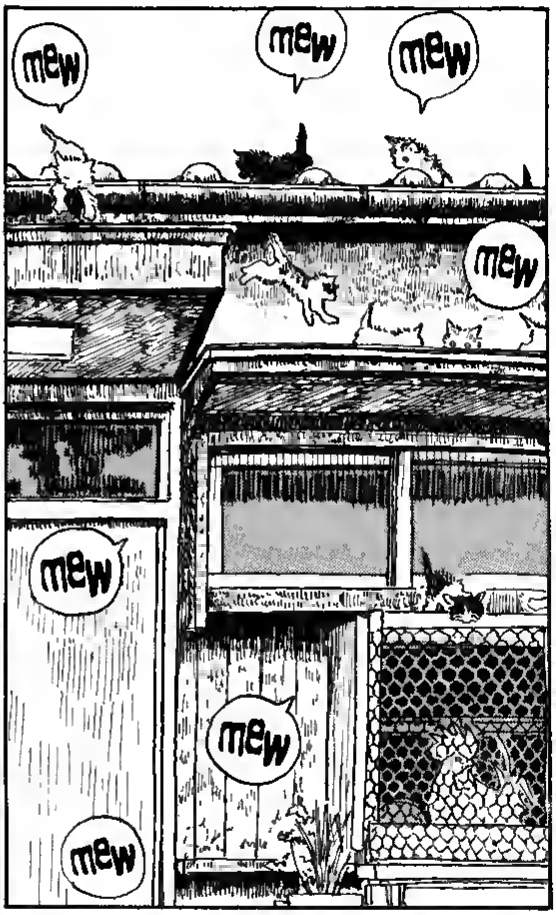

CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK.

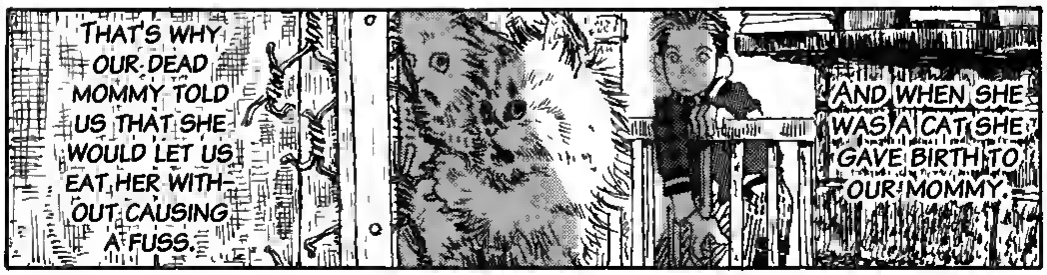
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO! COME ON!



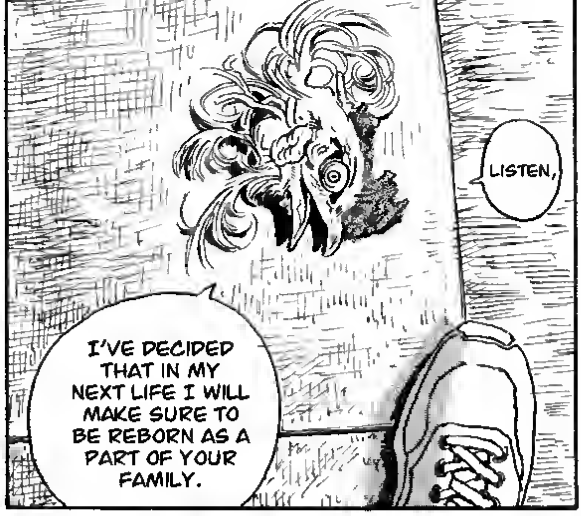

meowr

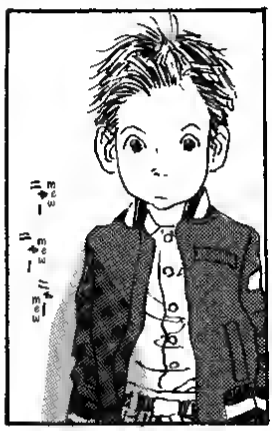
THIS ONE'S A CHICKEN NOW BUT IN HER PAST LIFE SHE WAS A CAT.
MOMMY TOLD US EVERY-THING.
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

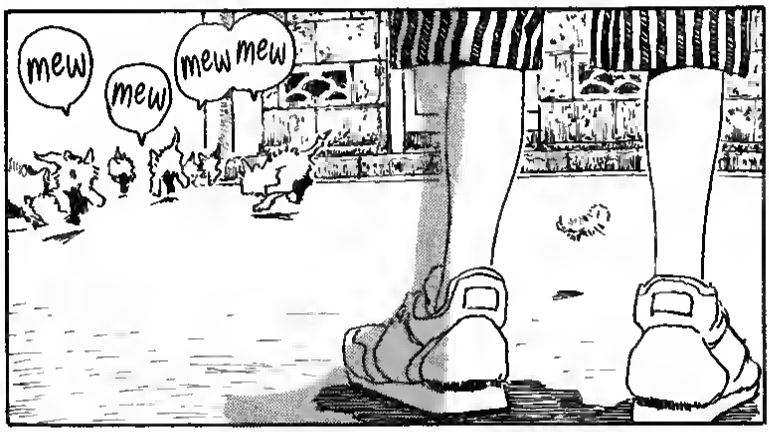

mew
mew
mew
mew
mew
mew
mew

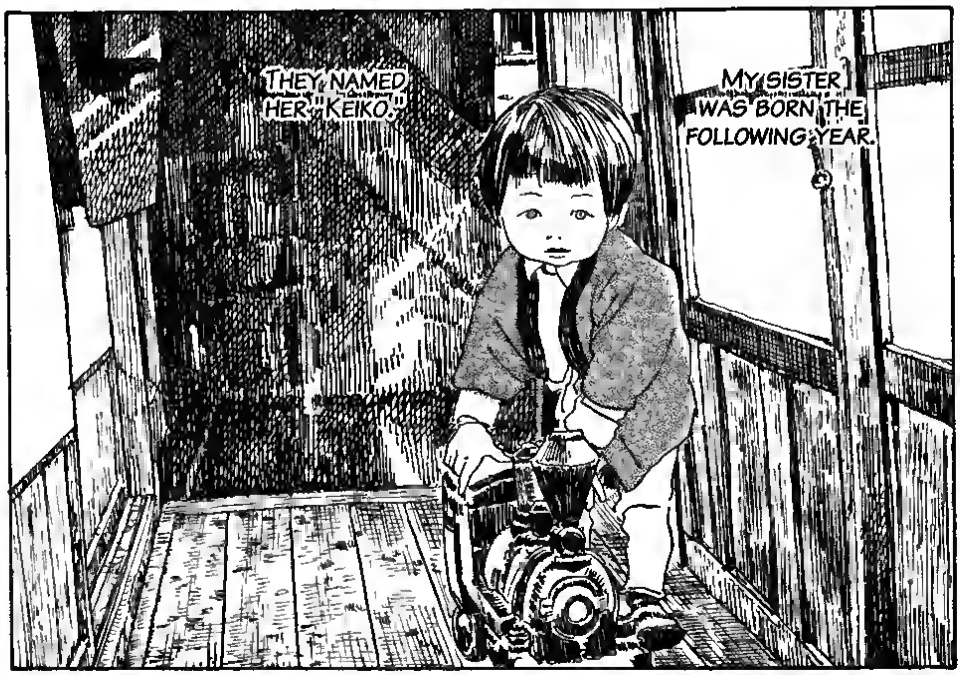

THAT'S WHY OUR DEAD MOMMY TOLD US THAT SHE WOULD LET US EAT HER WITH-OUT CAUSING A FUSS.
AND WHEN SHE WAS A CAT SHE GAVE BIRTH TO OUR MOMMY.

ガンガン
TUG TUG
ミシ
CREAK
ギリギリ
GNASH
ビキ
SNAP
ミシ
CREAK
ギッ
バリバリ
SLASH
RIP
メリメリ
SLASH
RIP
ブチブチ
TEAR
GRANNY
GRANNY
GRANNY
GRANNY
GRANNY
GRANNY
GRANNY
GRANNY
GRANNY
GRANNY
PLOP

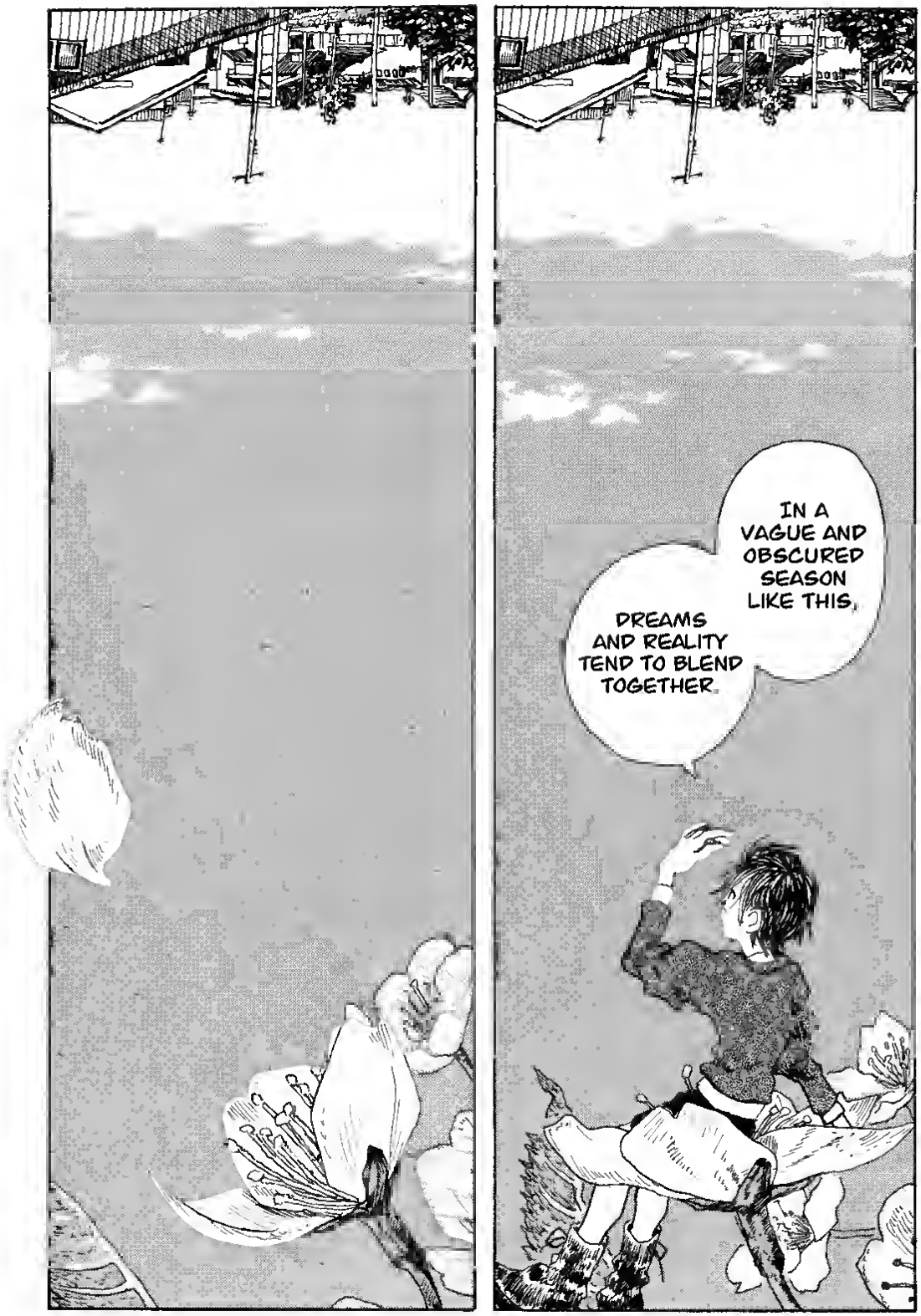

LISTEN,
I'VE DECIDED THAT IN MY NEXT LIFE I WILL MAKE SURE TO BE REBORN AS A PART OF YOUR FAMILY.



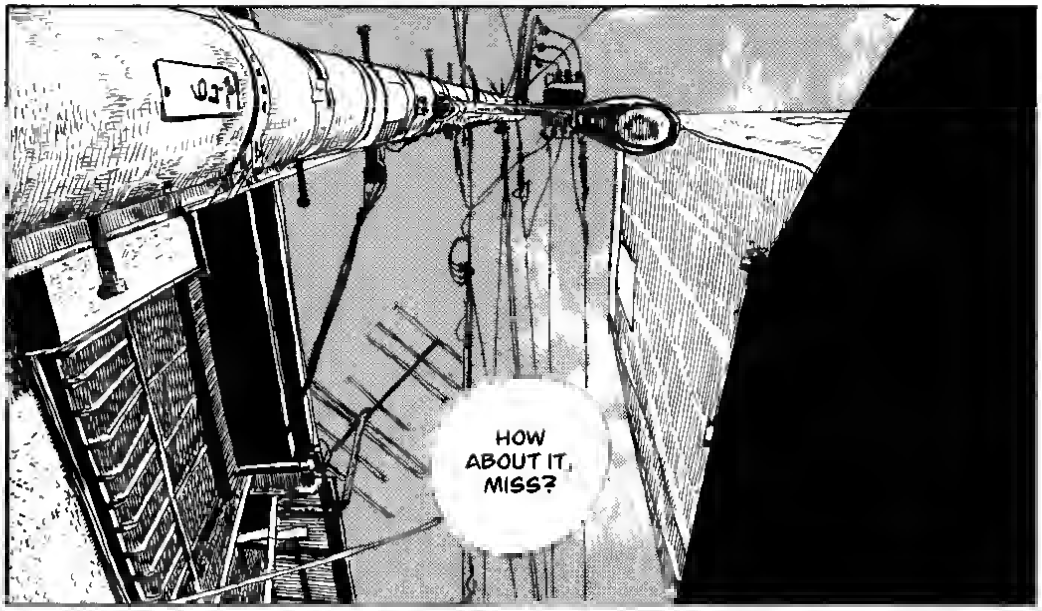

mew
mew
mew mew


THEY NAMED HER "KEIKO."
MY SISTER WAS BORN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT SPRING
MISTY, HAZY, ILLUSORY, THE DARKNESS OF SPRING IN THE BLURRY MOON.

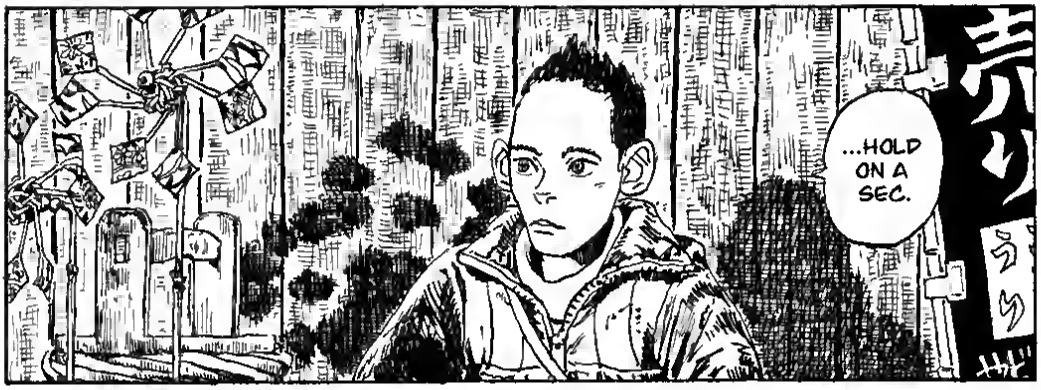

IN A VAGUE AND OBSCURED SEASON LIKE THIS,
DREAMS AND REALITY TEND TO BLEND TOGETHER.

フウー
TWEET
フウフウ
TWEE TWEE
フウ
フイッチョウ!
TWEETY TWEE
CRABS! HERMIT CRABS!
SQUISH
SQUISH
HERMIT CRABS FOR SALE.
HERMIT CRABS
clang clang clang


HOW ABOUT IT, MISS?

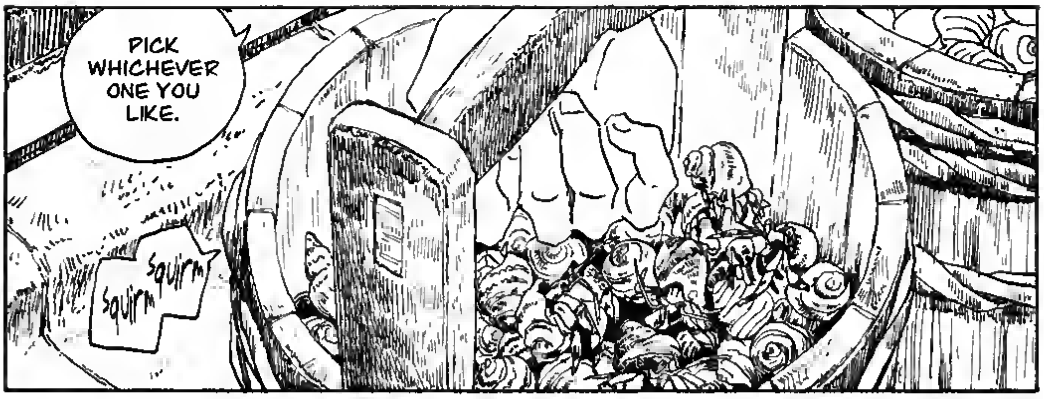
IT'S THE PERFECT PET FOR A KID.

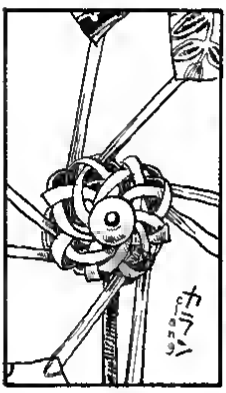
TAKING CARE OF THEM IS A PIECE OF CAKE...

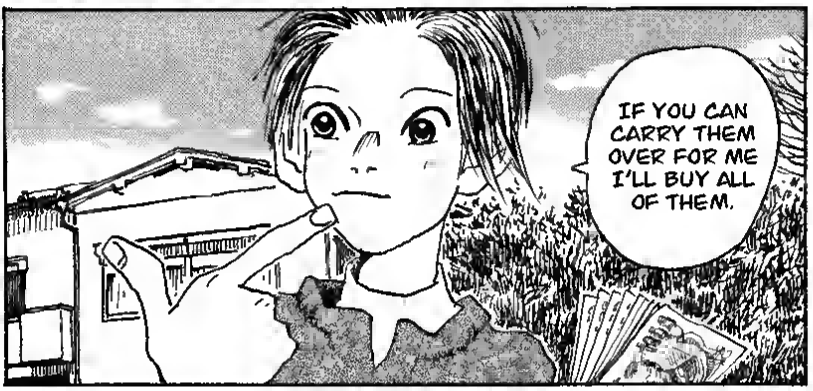

...HOLD ON A SEC.

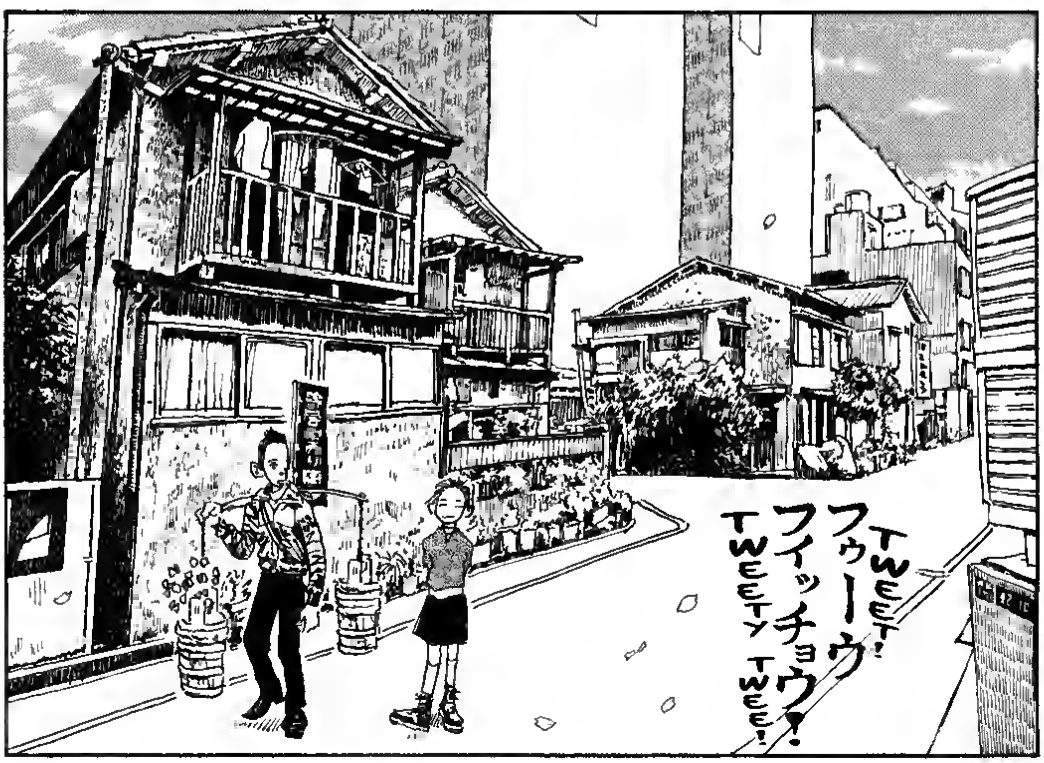
CAN I HAVE SOME?

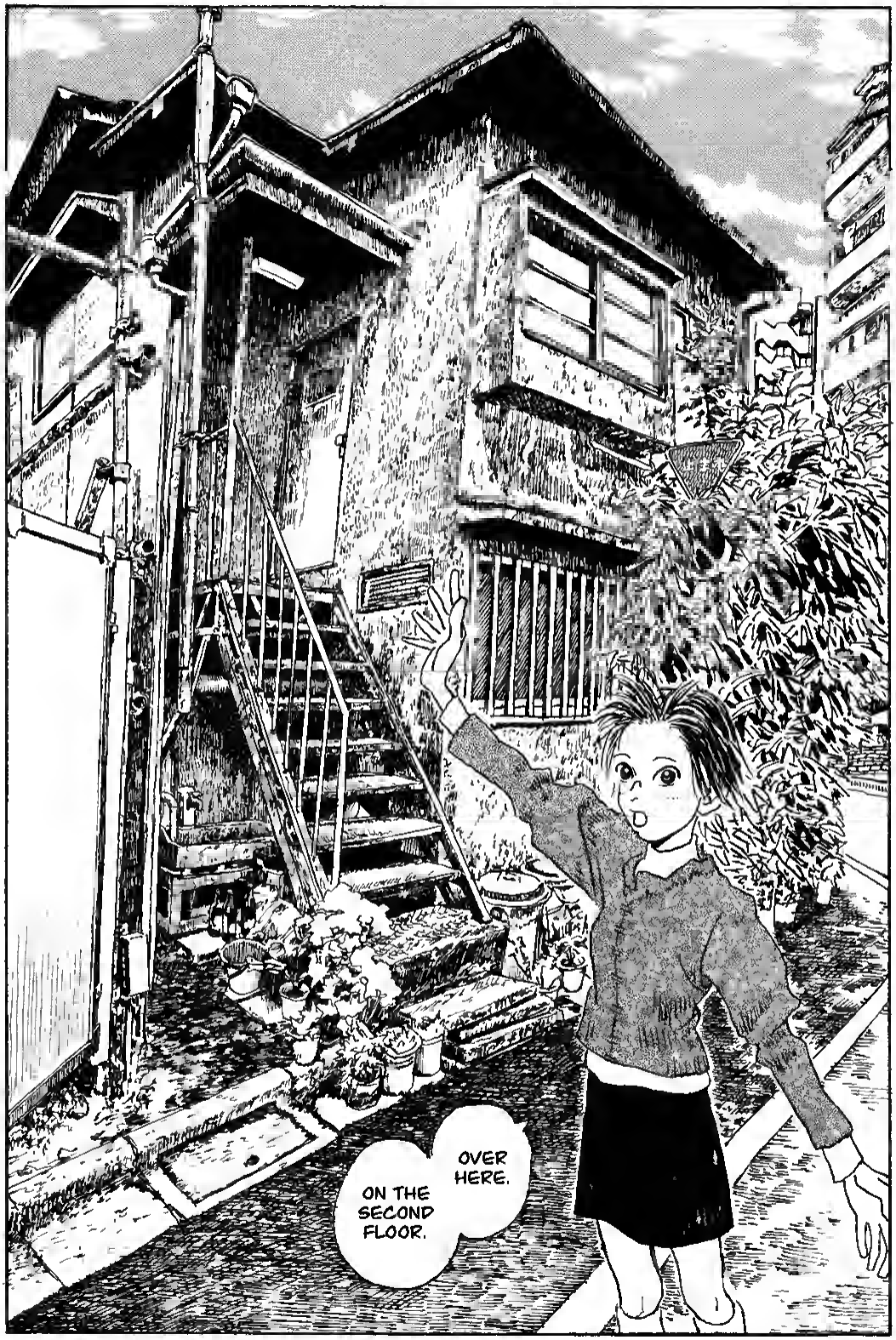
HOW ABOUT ONE?
I DO PORTRAITS TOO!


PICK WHICHEVER ONE YOU LIKE.
Squirm
Squirm


カラン


IF YOU CAN CARRY THEM OVER FOR ME I'LL BUY ALL OF THEM.


TWEET!
フゥーウ
フィッチョウ!
TWEETン TWEE!


OVER HERE.
ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

KEEP YOUR SHOES ON. IT'S DIRTY IN HERE.

OKAY, OKAY. MOVE IT, MOVE IT. THIS IS HEAVY.

ALL OF THEM HAVE LOST THEIR WAY IN THE FALSE SPRING.

ザー SLIDE ガラガラ RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

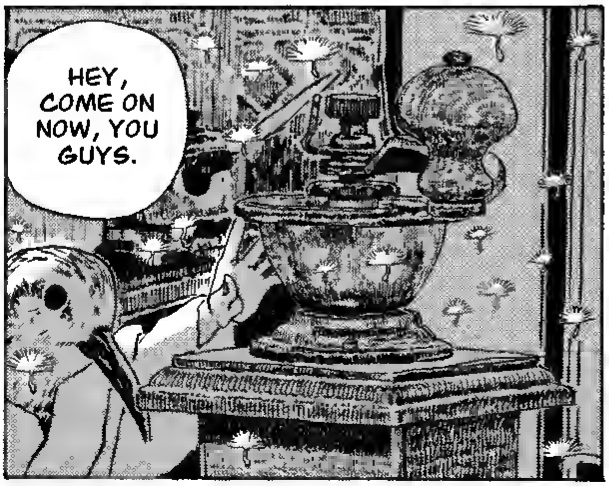
THESE LITTLE GUYS ARE IN THE SAME BOAT AS YOU.

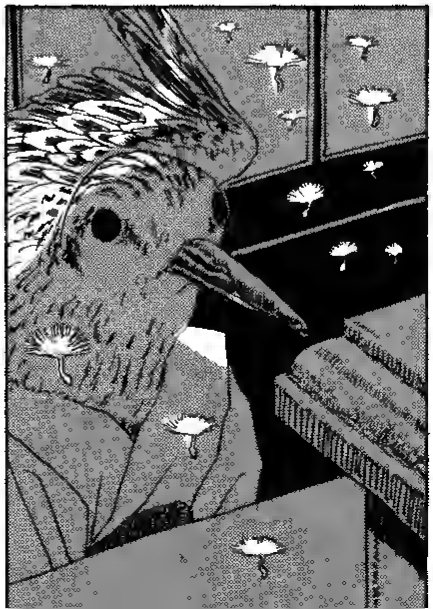
THE DANDELION SEEDS AND THE SAND-PIPERS TOO.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SELLING HERMIT CRABS?
HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE TO SELL IN A DAY TO BREAK EVEN?
TO GET YOUR HANDS ON SO MANY HERMIT CRABS?
YOU DON'T KNOW, DO YOU?
AND HOW'D YOU EVEN MANAGE...
IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE DOING
THE THINGS THAT YOU'RE DOING,
THAT'S EVIDENCE OF A FALSE SPRING.

AFTER STAYING FOR TWO TO THREE DAYS, IT TAKES THOSE THAT IT HAS LEAD ASTRAY WITH IT OFF SOMEWHERE.

SHORTLY BEFORE THE FLOWERS OF THE TRUE SPRING BLOOM, THE BIRDS OF THE TRUE SPRING SING, AND THE WIND OF THE TRUE SPRING BLOWS, A PESUDO-SPRING, SOMETHING THAT'S LIKE A SPRING, AN ILLUSIONARY SPRING, A FALSE SPRING COMES.

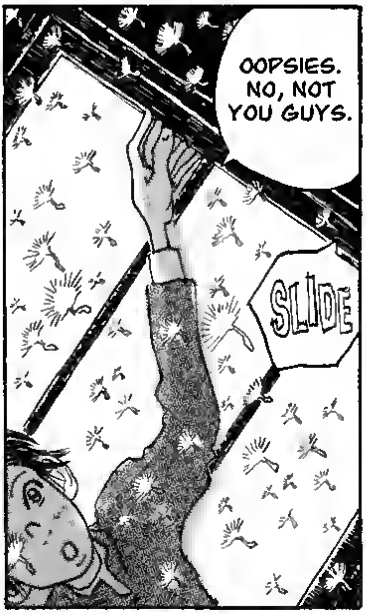


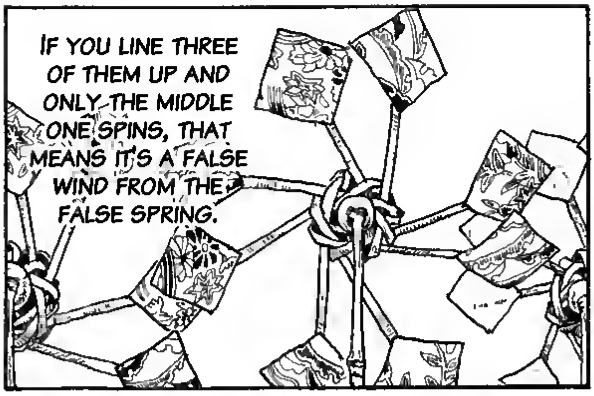


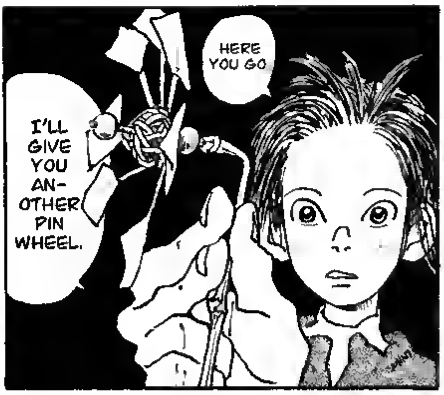
AND TAKE THE HERMIT CRABS WITH YOU TO THE SEA.
ONCE YOU'RE DONE EATING GET OUT OF HERE,

TAKE THEM WITH YOU.

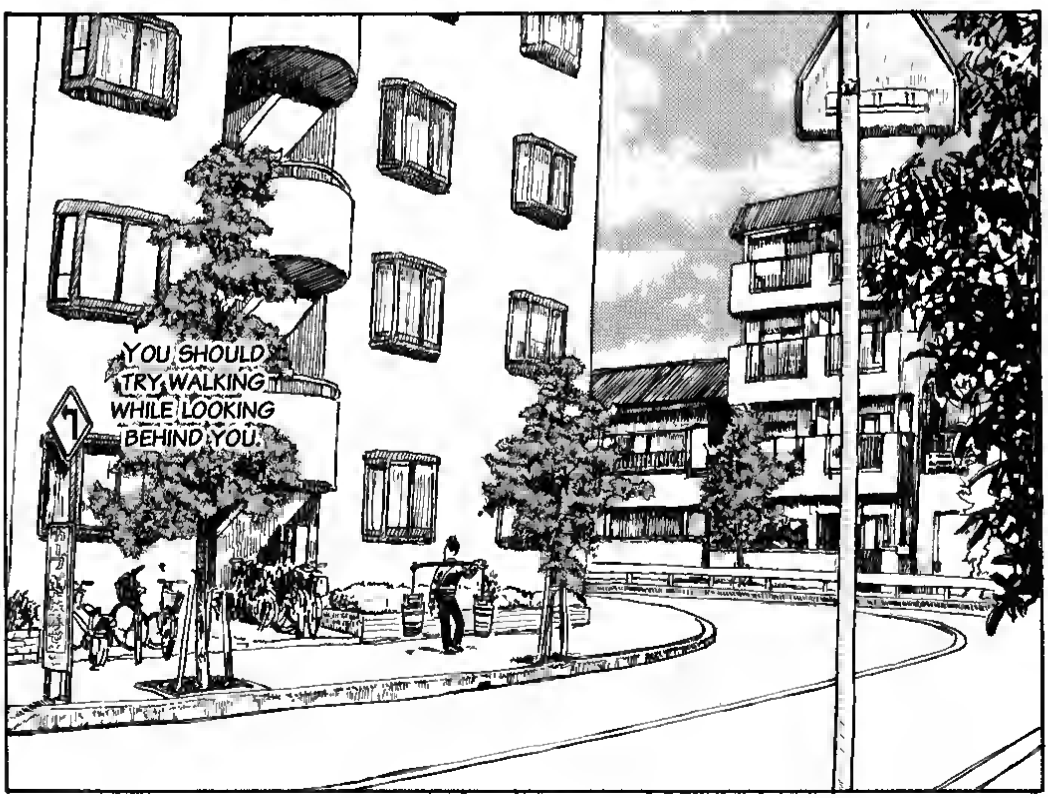
GET INSIDE THIS BUCKET AND OFF YOU GO.


OOPSIES. NO, NOT YOU GUYS.
SLIDE

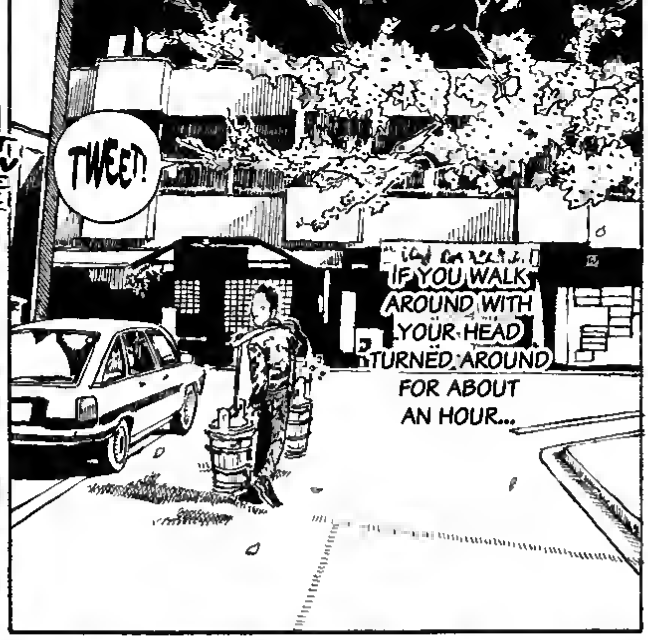

IF YOU LINE THREE OF THEM UP AND ONLY THE MIDDLE ONE SPINS, THAT MEANS IT'S A FALSE WIND FROM THE FALSE SPRING.

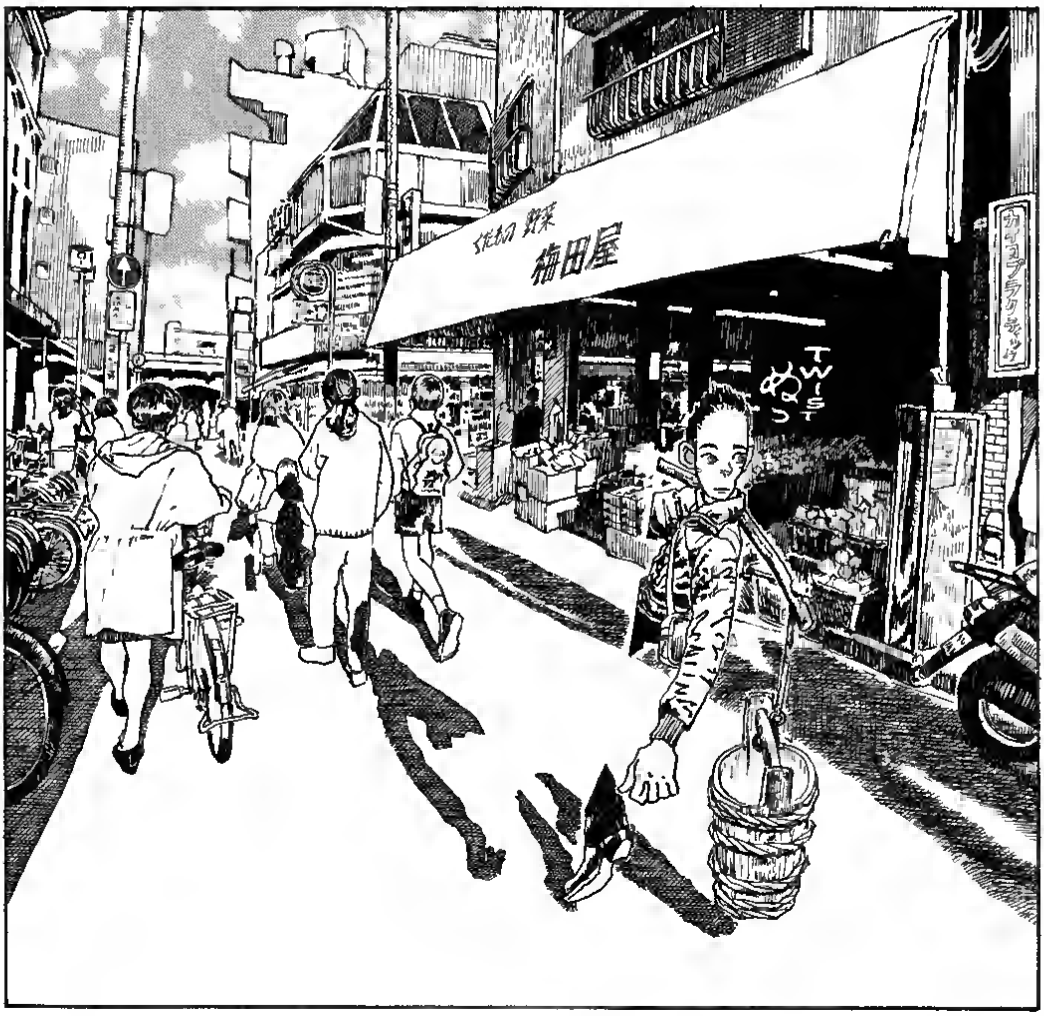

HERE YOU GO.
I'LL GIVE YOU AN-OTHER PIN WHEEL.

TAKE CARE AND BE CAREFUL.
SO MAKE SURE IT'S NOT A FALSE WIND FIRST AND THEN LET THE DANDELIONS OUT.


YOU SHOULD TRY WALKING WHILE LOOKING BEHIND YOU.

TWEETY
フィッ
チョ!
TWEET!

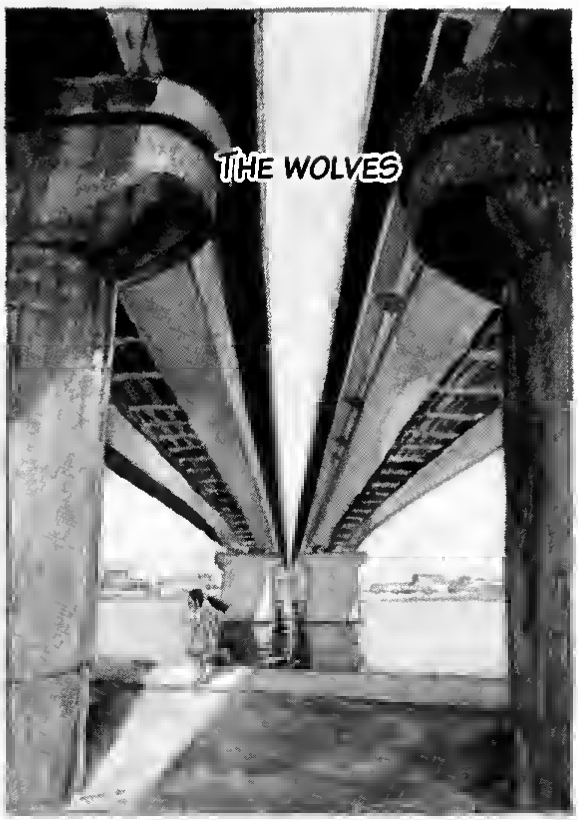

TWEET!
IF YOU WALK AROUND WITH YOUR HEAD TURNED AROUND FOR ABOUT AN HOUR...


梅田屋
TWIST

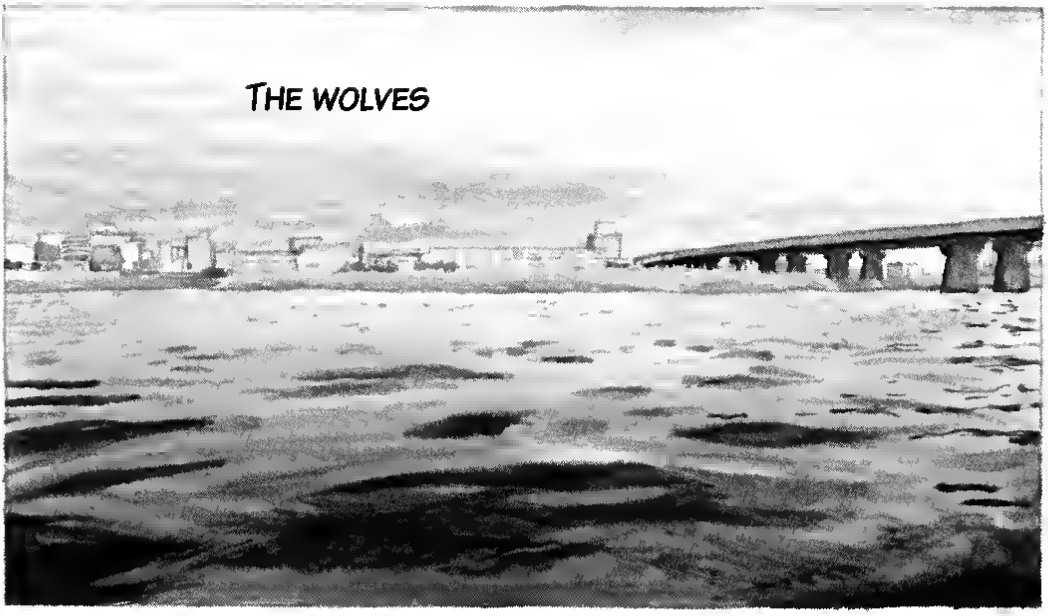
Chapter 42

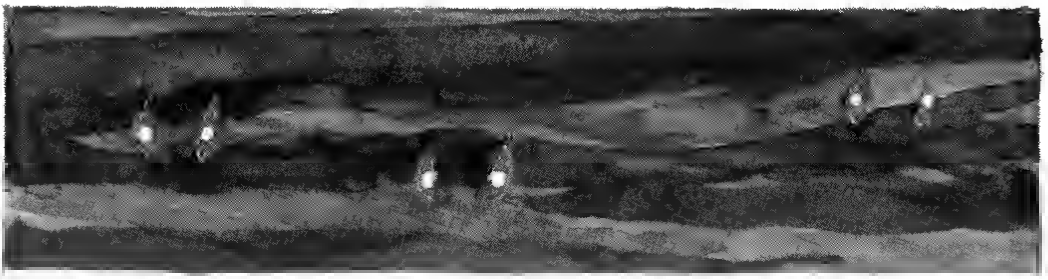
THE FLOWERS AND THE WOLVES

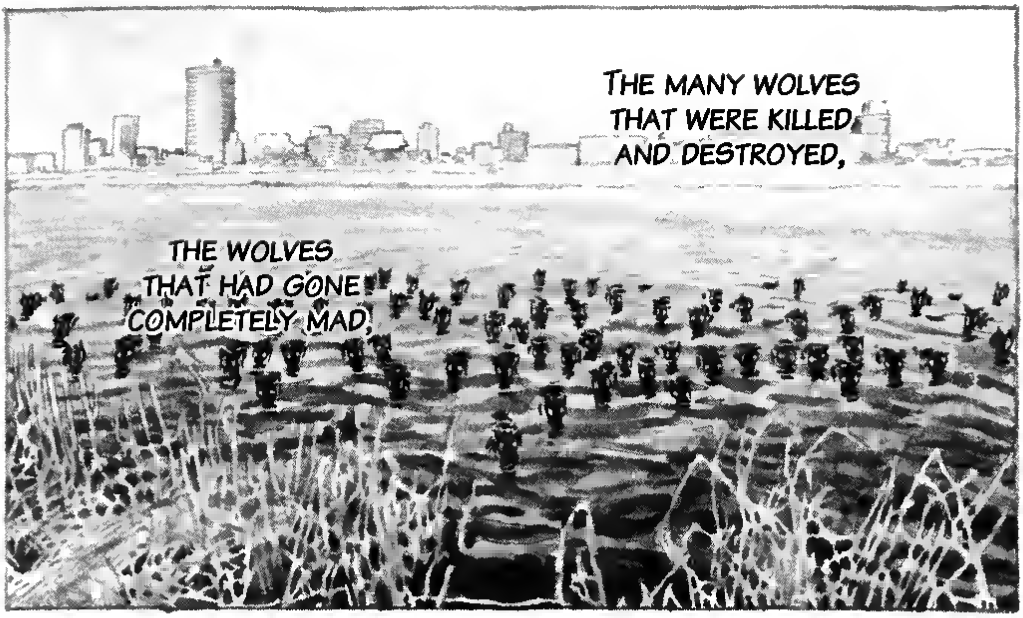
THE MANY WOLVES THAT WERE KILLED AND DESTROYED, THE WOLVES THAT HAD GONE COMPLETELY MAD, WILL RISE FROM THE MANY RIVERS, SPLISH SPLASH SPLISH, AND DASH ABOUT, HOWLING AND BAYING, GNAWING AND FEEDING UPON THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM PROFUSELY



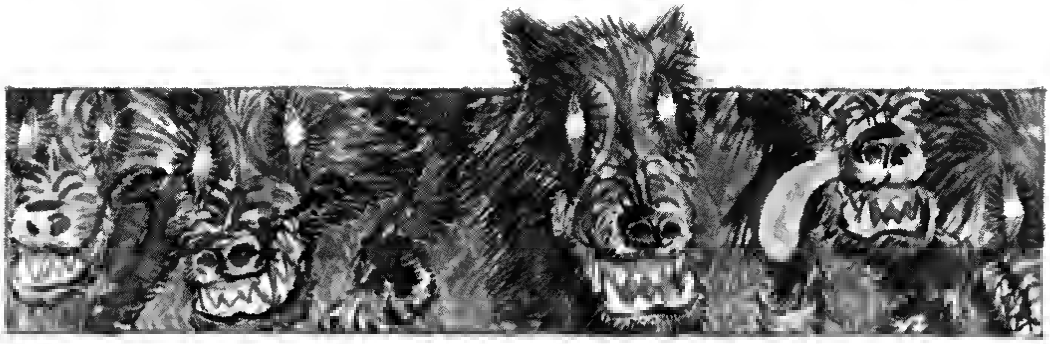
THE WOLVES






THE MANY WOLVES THAT WERE KILLED, AND DESTROYED,
THE WOLVES THAT HAD GONE COMPLETELY MAD,

AND DASH ABOUT,
WILL RISE FROM THE MANY RIVERS, SPLISH SPLASH SPLISH,



THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM PROFUSELY
GNAWING AND FEEDING UPON
HOWLING AND BAYING,

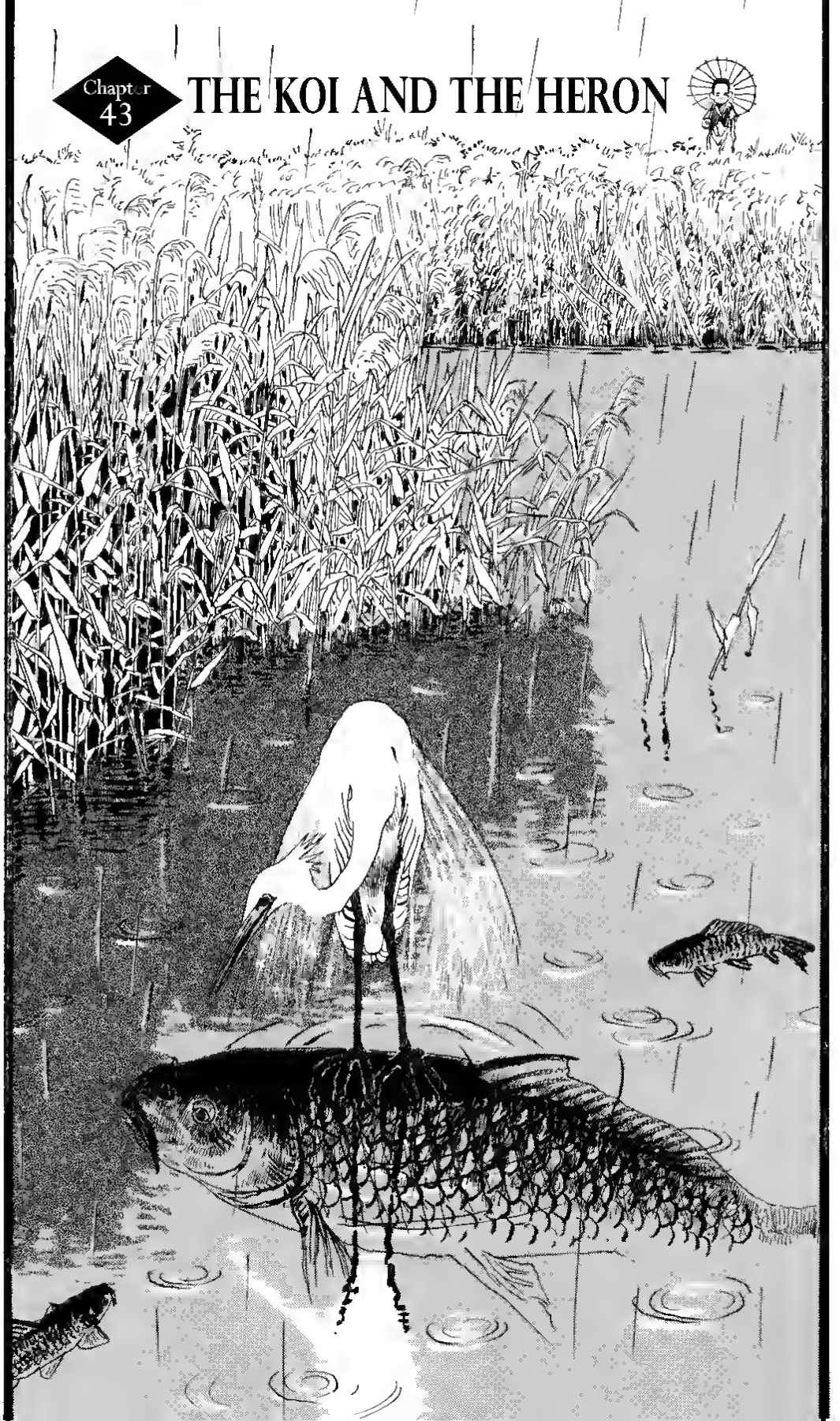
THE WOLVES...

AND DASH ABOUT, HOWLING AND BAYING, GNAWING AND FEEDING UPON THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM PROFUSELY
THE MANY WOLVES THAT WERE KILLED AND DESTROYED, THE WOLVES THAT HAD GONE COMPLETELY MAD, WILL RISE FROM THE MANY RIVERS, SPLISH SPLASH SPLISH,

WHEN THE FLOWERS ALL BLOOM AT ONCE.
A TALE OF THE BRIEF SPRINGS IN THE NORTH

Chapter 43

THE KOI AND THE HERON



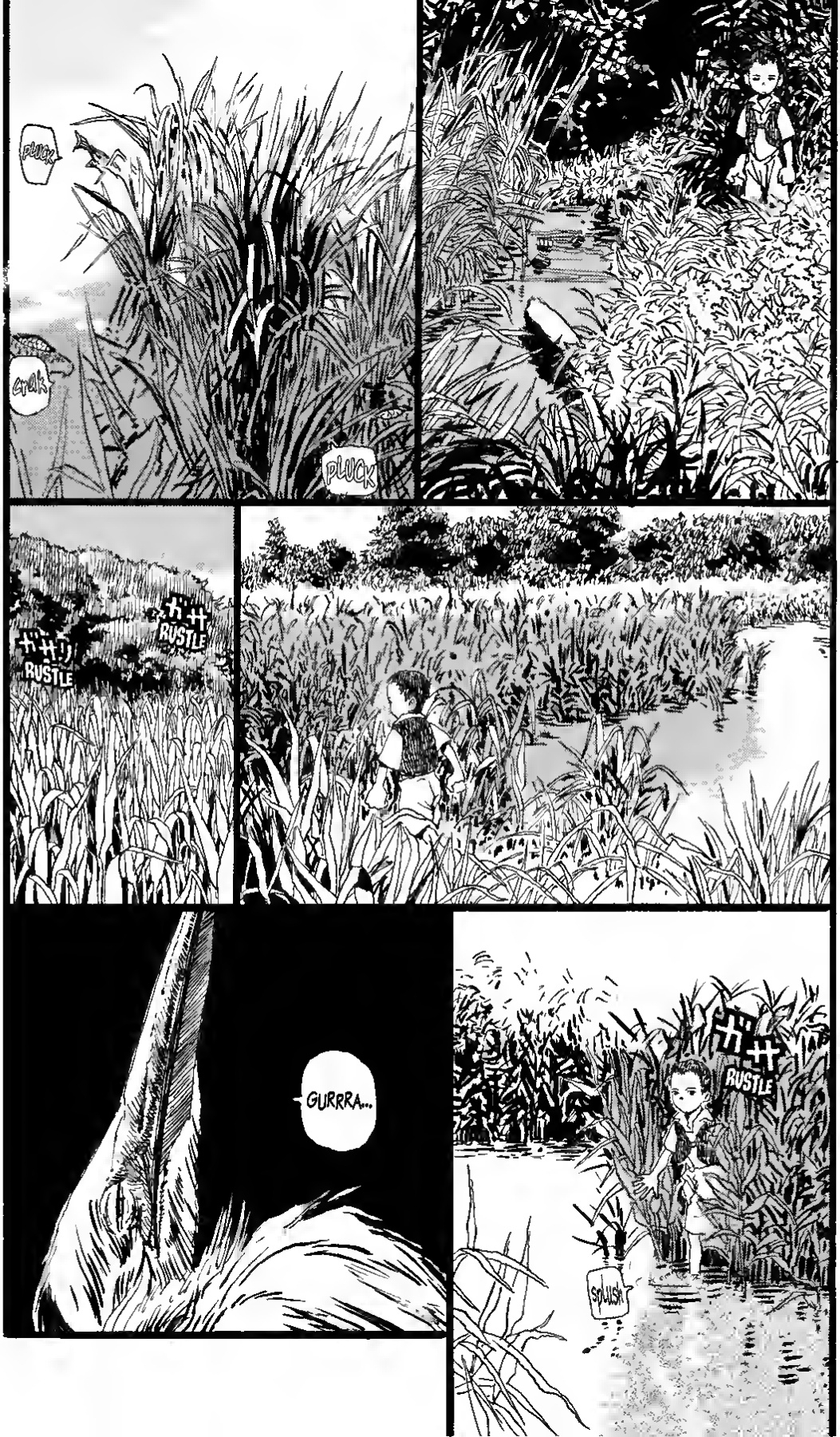
I SAW THE LORD OF THE MARSH AND THE HERON.

ざあ
ZAA
ざあ
ZAA
ざあ
ZAA...

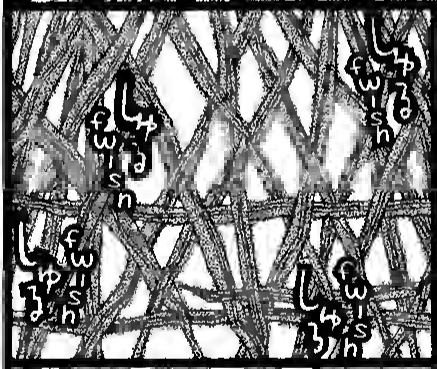
THE HERON HAS BEEN GREATLY INJURED.
AHH, THIS IS TOO CRUEL.
HE MUST HAVE TRIED TO GET IT OFF AND JUST GOT MORE TANGLED IN IT.
SOMEONE TOSSED A FISHING LINE WITH THE HOOK STILL ATTACHED.
CAN YOU GET IT OFF HIM?

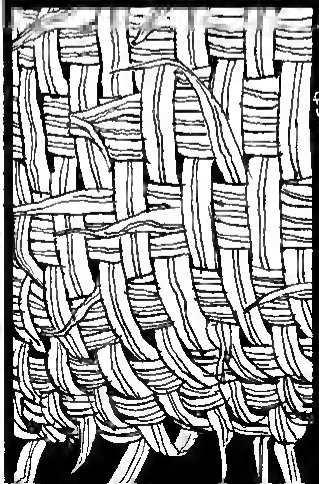
EVEN IF YOU GET THE LINE OFF HIM, IT'S TOO LATE.
BLOOP

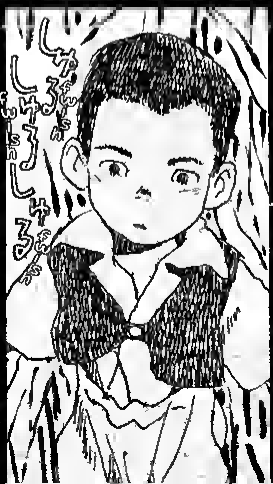
I DID NOT SEE THEM FOR THREE DAYS.
PLUCK


PLUCK
CREAK
PLUCK
ガサ
RUSTLE
ガサ
RUSTLE
GURRRA...
ガサ
RUSTLE
SPLISH

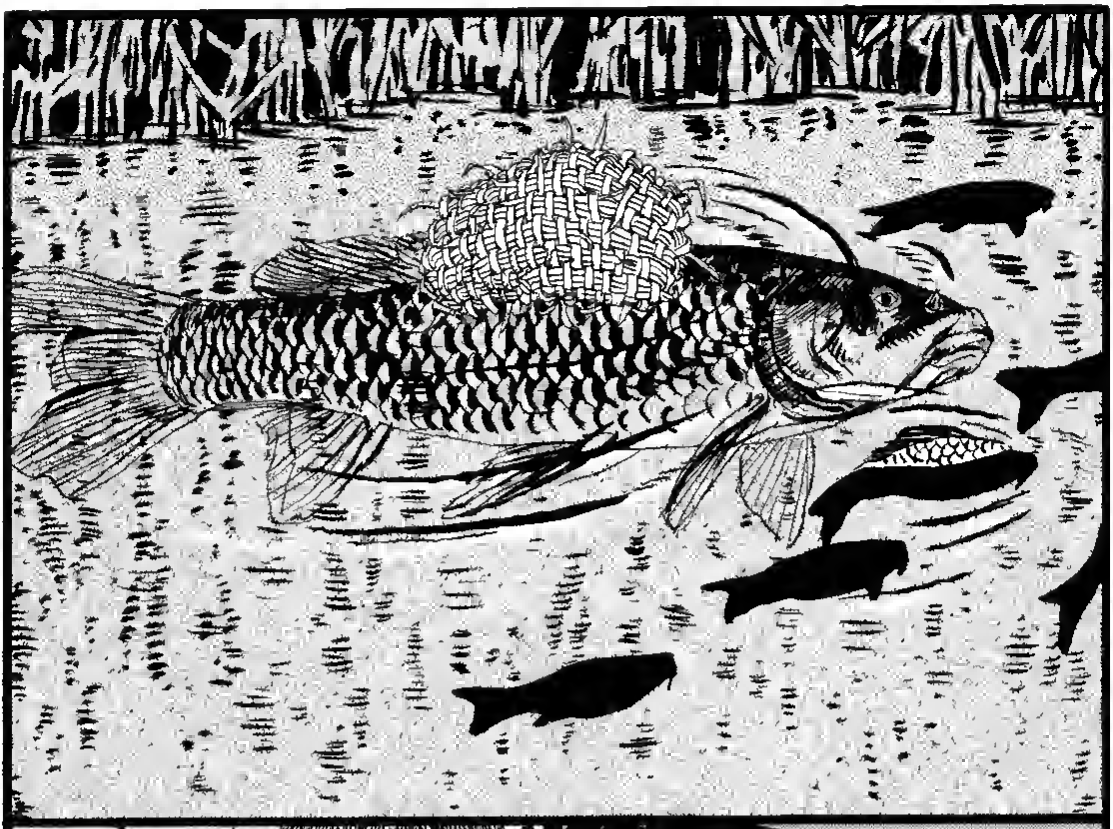
ガサ
RUSTLE


しゅる
fwish
しゅる
fwish
しゅる
fwish
しゅる
fwish

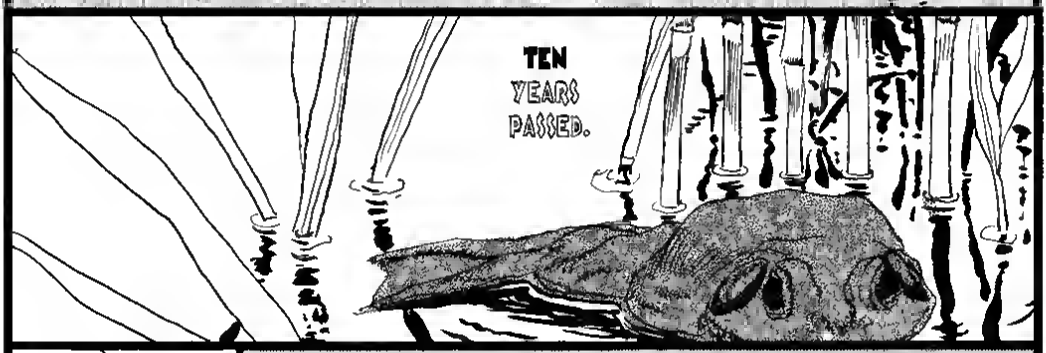



しゅるがしゅるしゅる
fwish

しゅるがしゅるがしゅるしゅる
fwish

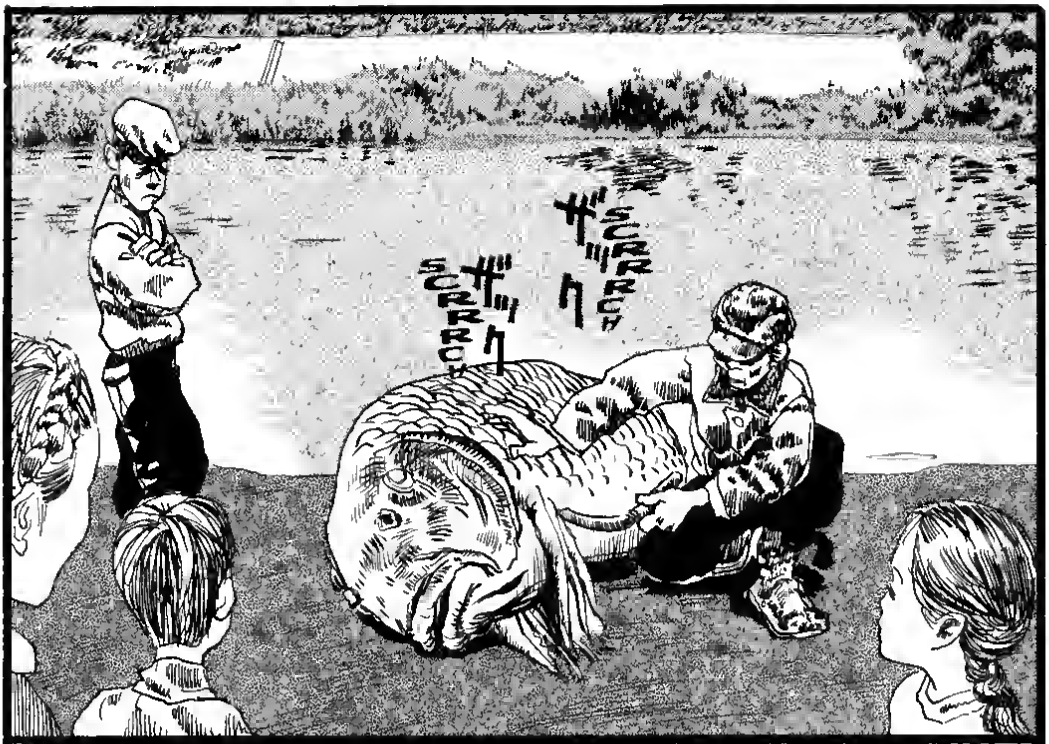


バシャン
SPLASH


TEN
YEARS
PASSED.

THEY SAY IT'S THE LORD OF THE MARSH!
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FIVE METERS LONG!
I HEARD THIS HUGE KOI DIED.

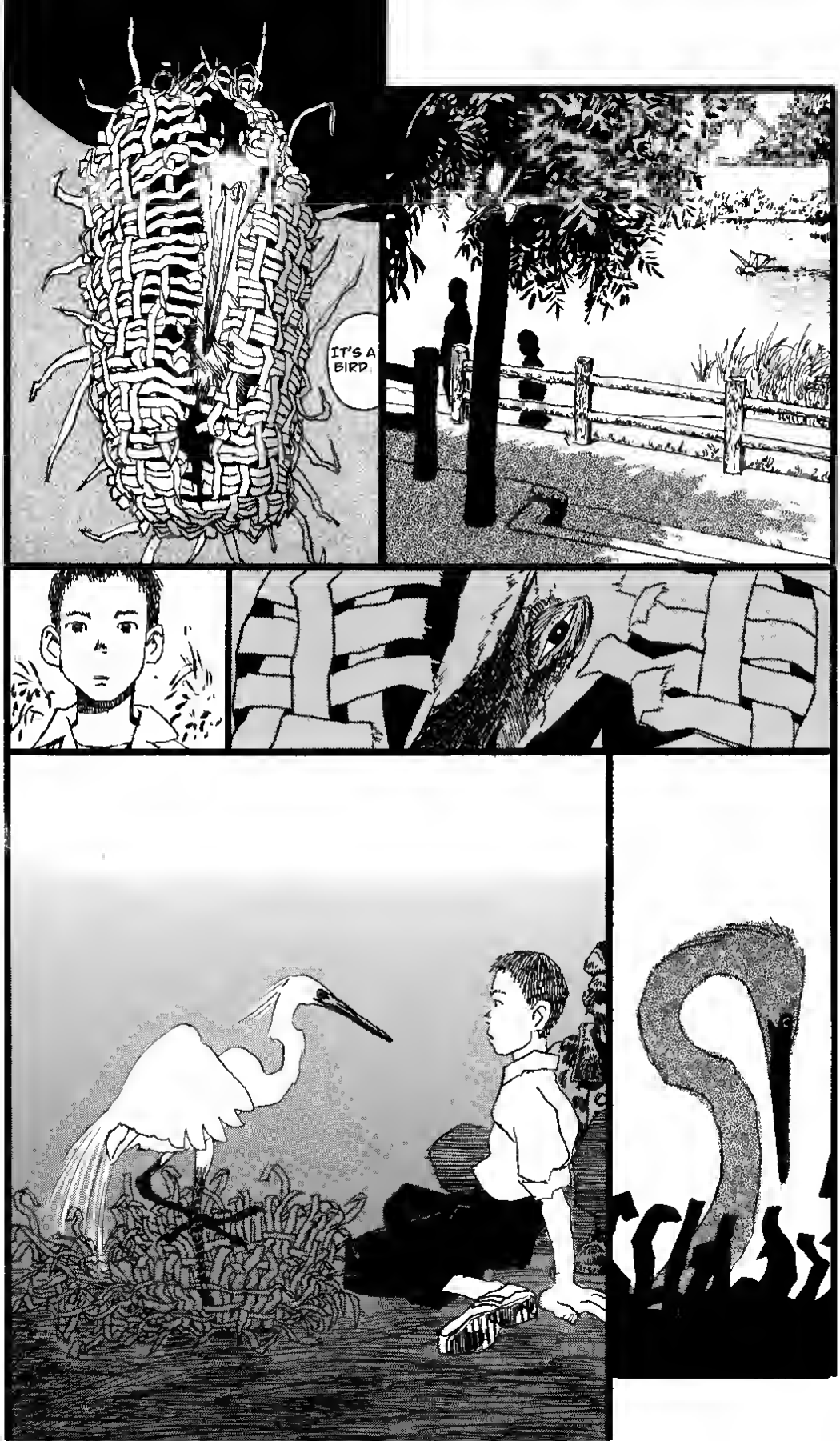
HMM
ITS BELLY IS ABNORMALLY LARGE.
HEY, GO GET A KNIFE OR SOMETHING TO CUT IT OPEN WITH.
THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD HAVE POSSIBLY SWALLOWED A PERSON OR ANYTHING, BUT STILL.

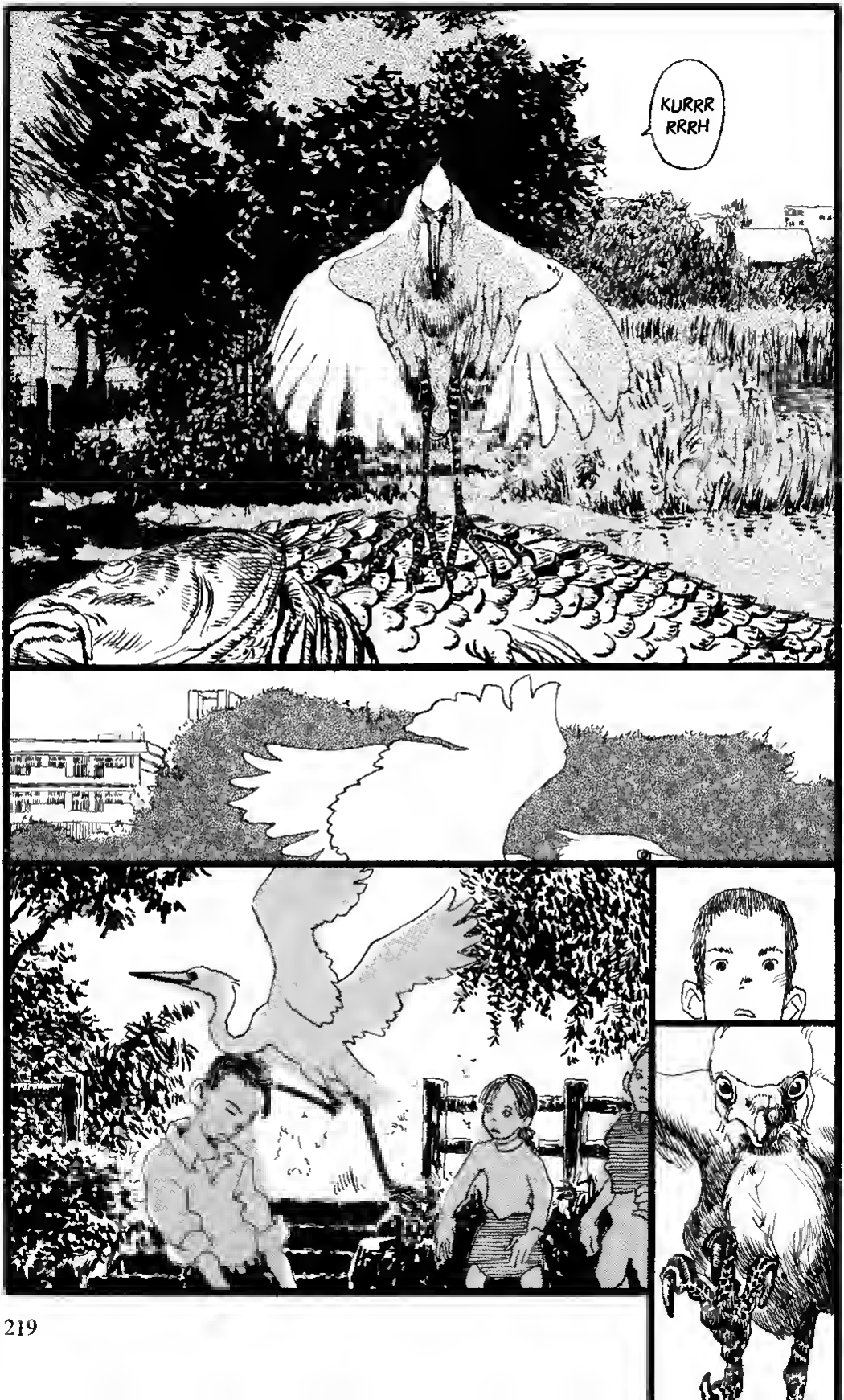

SCRRRCH
SCRRRCH

WHAT IS THIS?

I'M GONNA RIP IT OPEN.

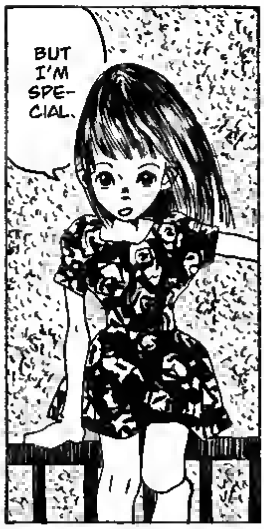
SOME-THING'S INSIDE IT.


IT'S A BIRD.

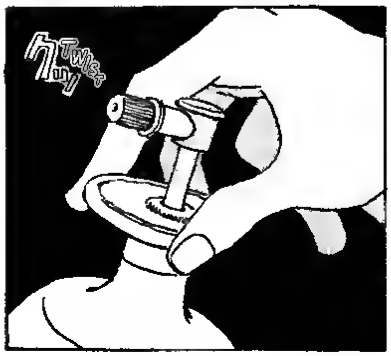

KURRR
RRRH

KURRRRH KURRRRH
RIBBIT
CROAK

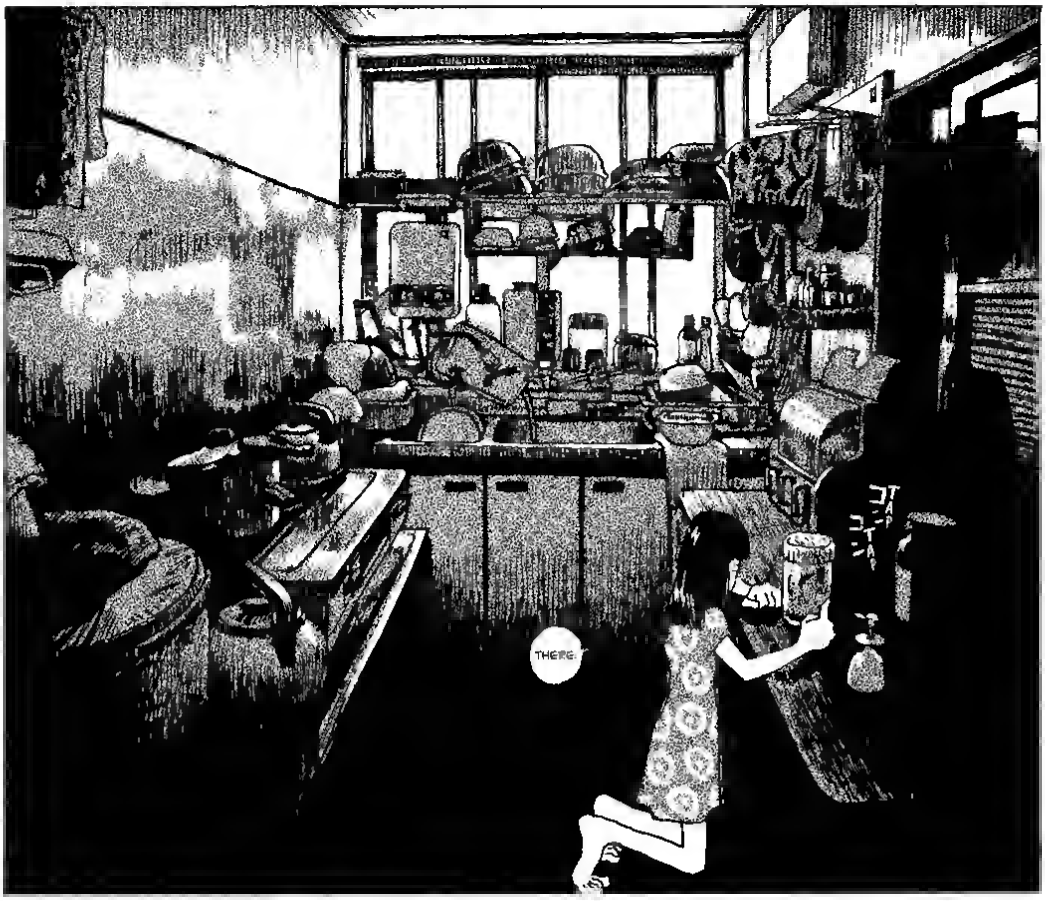
Chapter
44
SNAIL

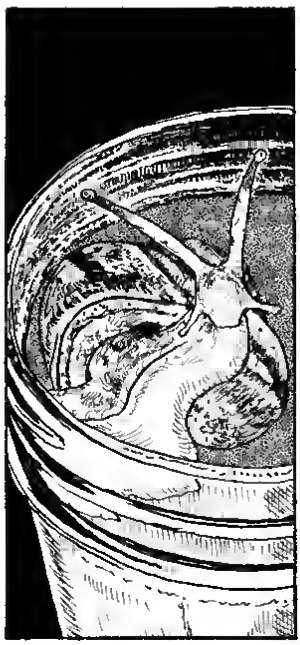

BUT I'M SPE-CIAL.

AND WON'T TALK TO ANYONE.
GLUNK
GRANDPA WON'T SEE ANYONE.

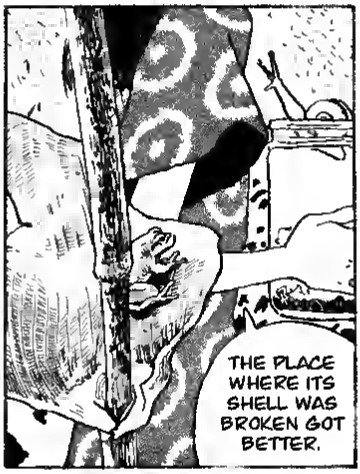

Twist
Tony

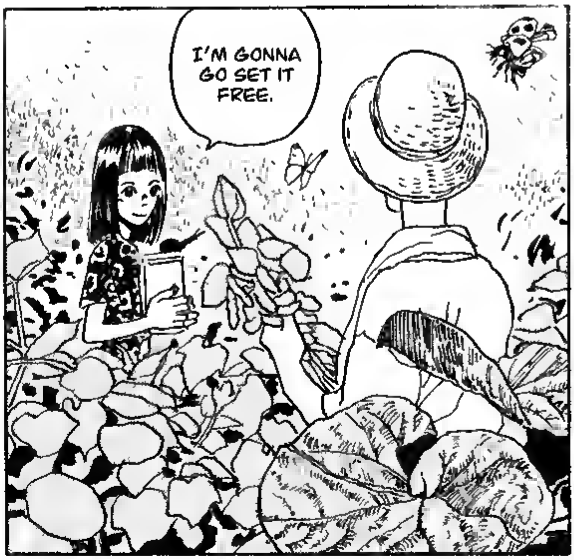
I'M COMING IN!


THERE.

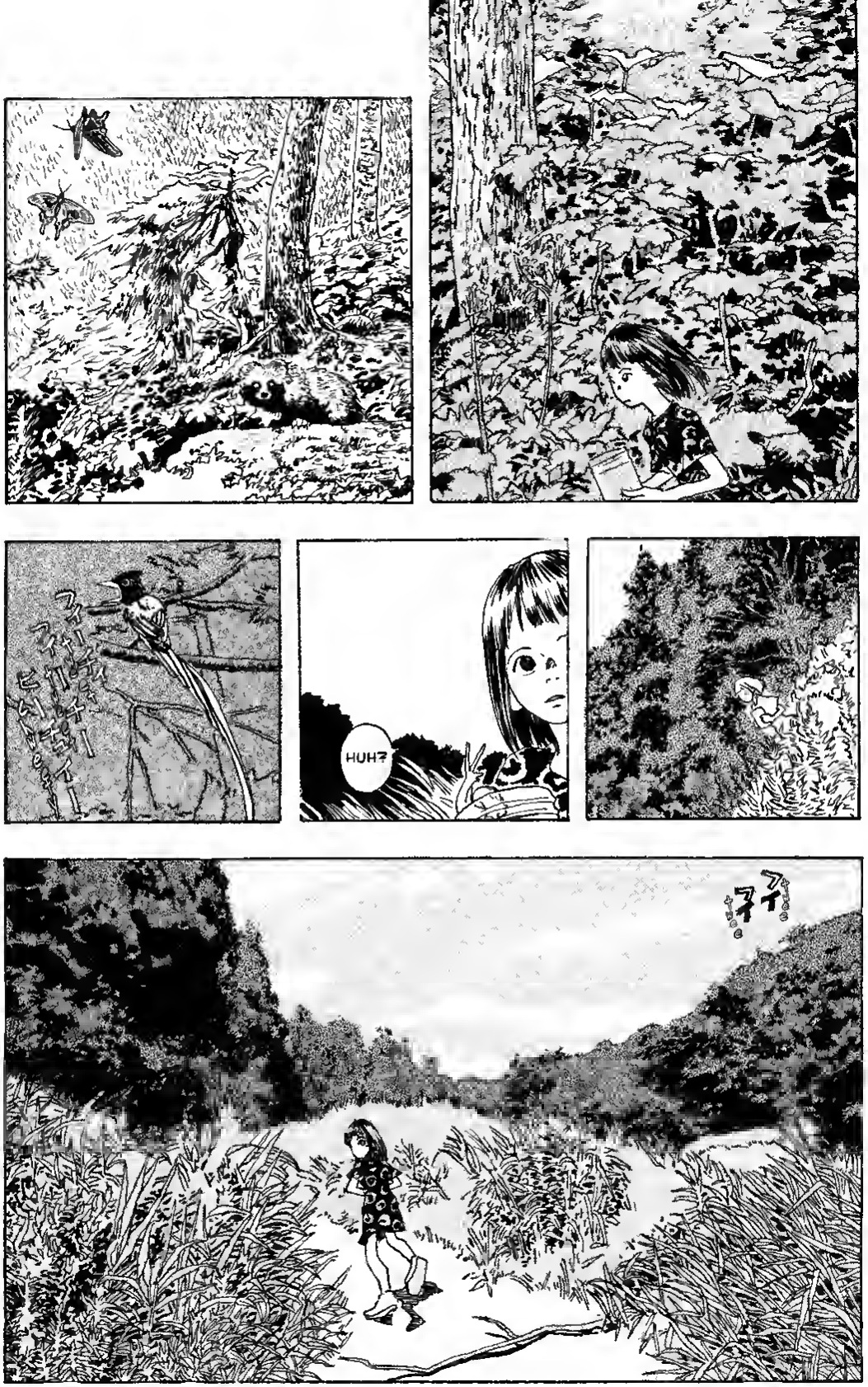


GRANDPA, LOOK! THE SNAIL!


THE PLACE WHERE ITS SHELL WAS BROKEN GOT BETTER.

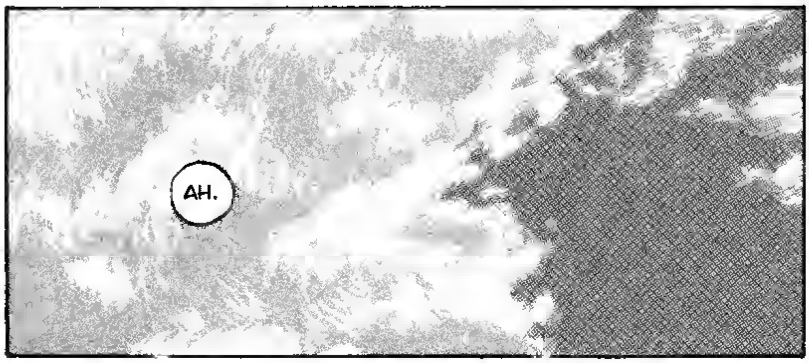

I'M GONNA GO SET IT FREE.

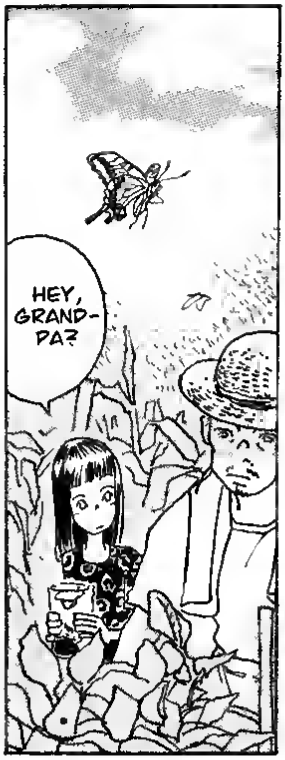
ナウシカ
ナウシカ
ナウシカ
ナウシカ

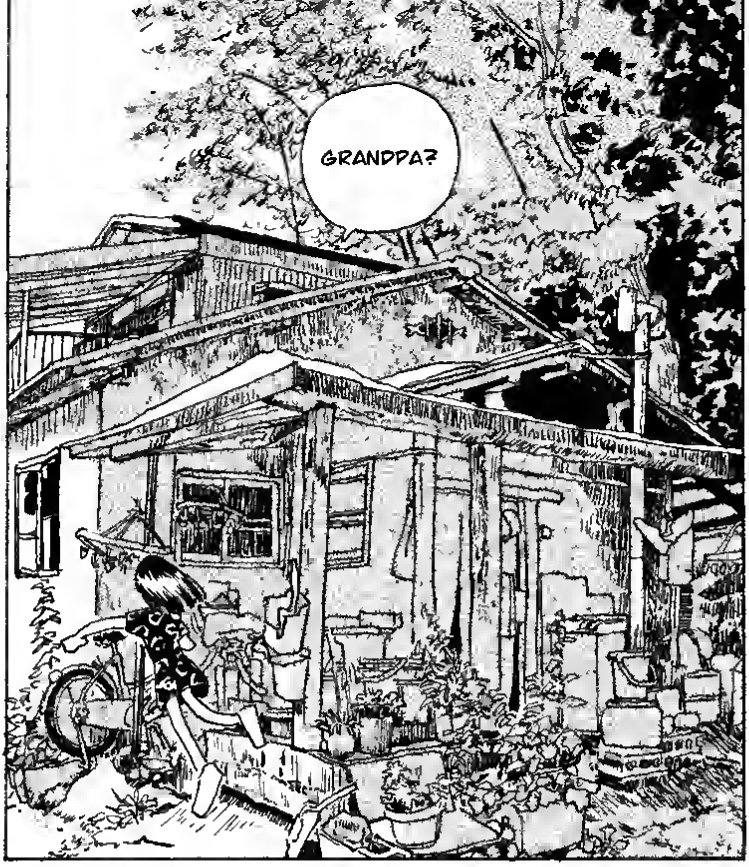

HUH?

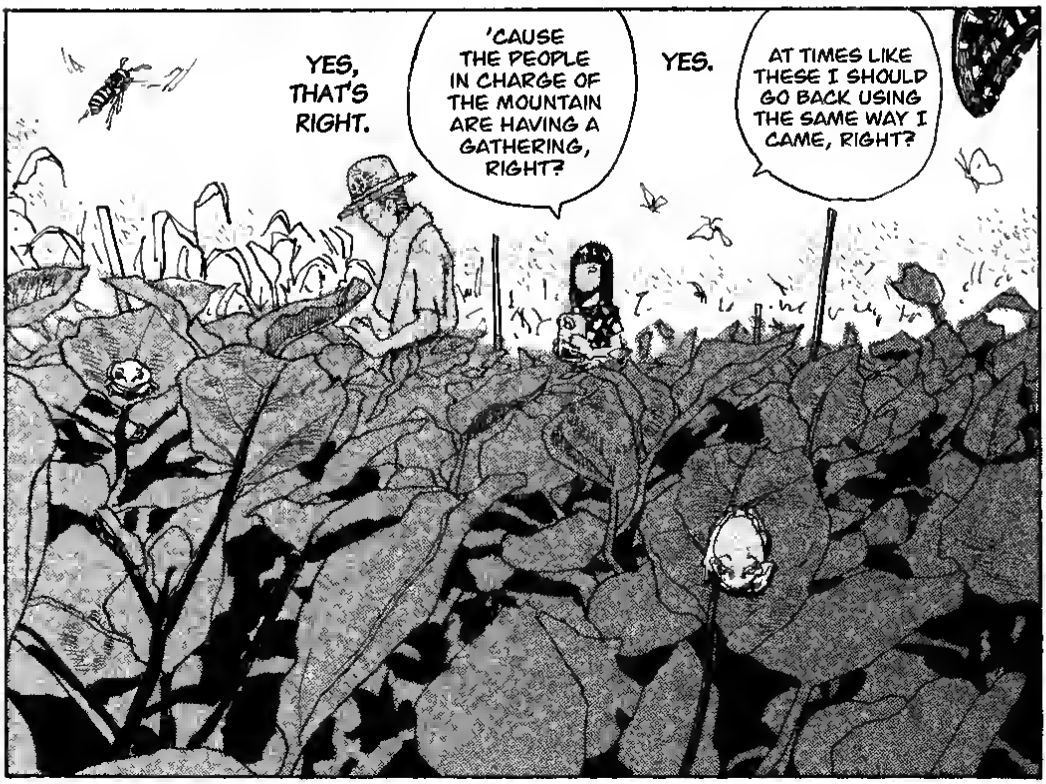
フィーチィ
フィーチィ
ヒーチュ
イー
I DON'T GET IT.

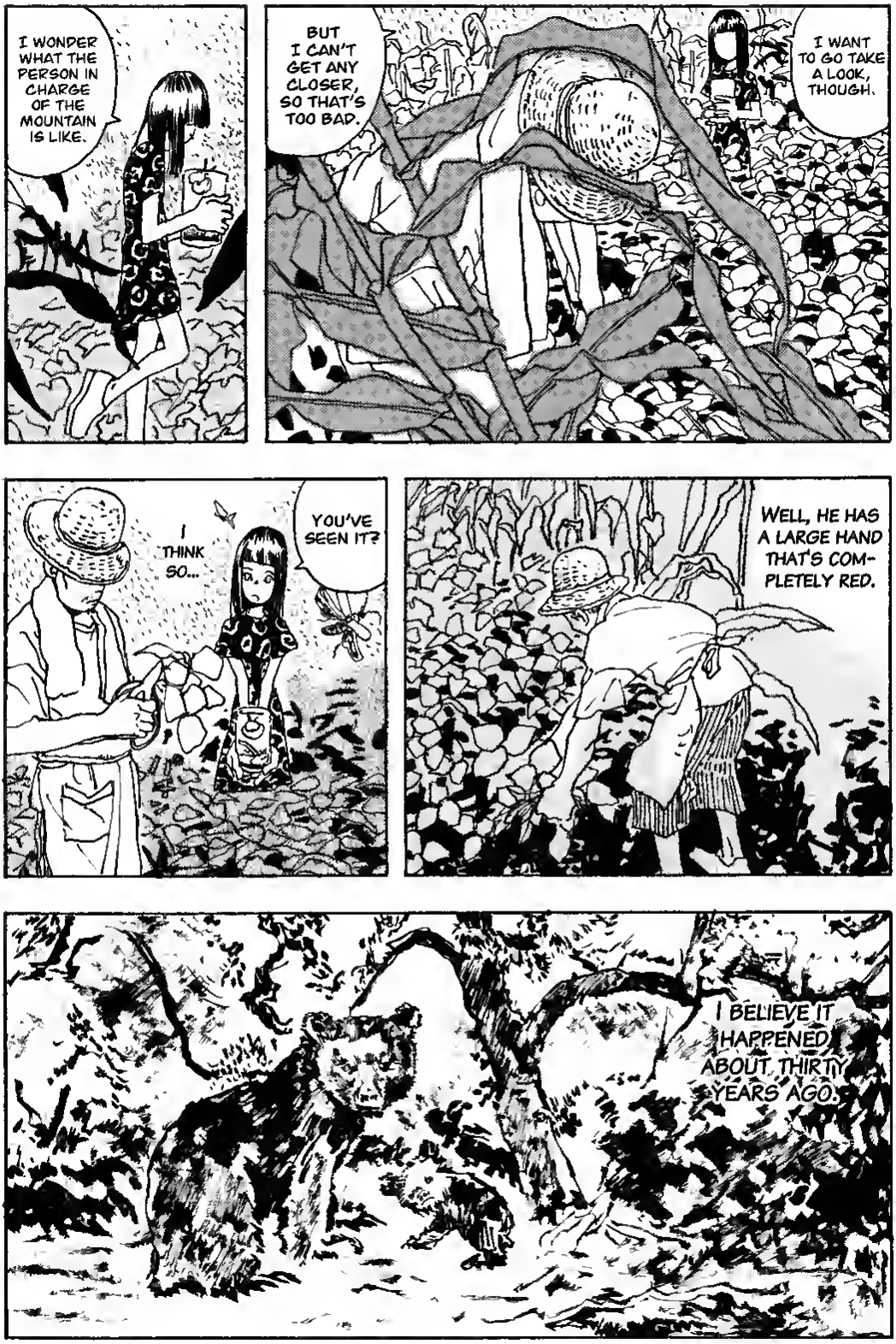
フィ
フィ


AH.

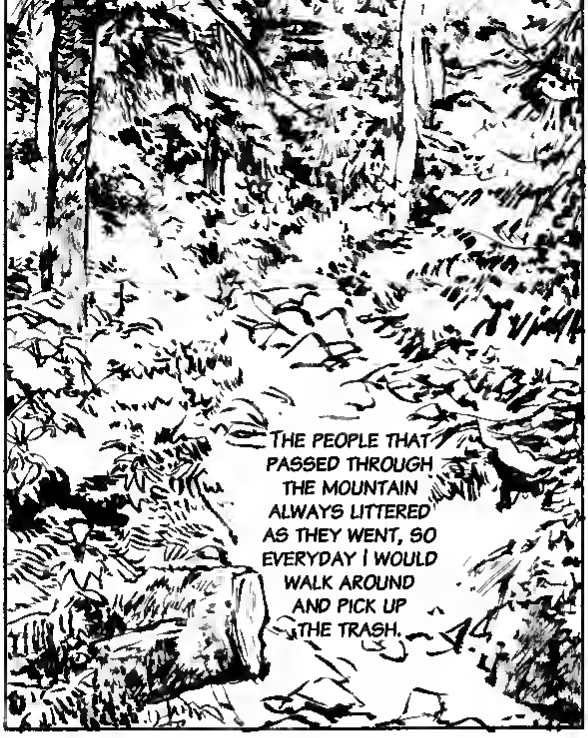

HEY, GRAND-PA?

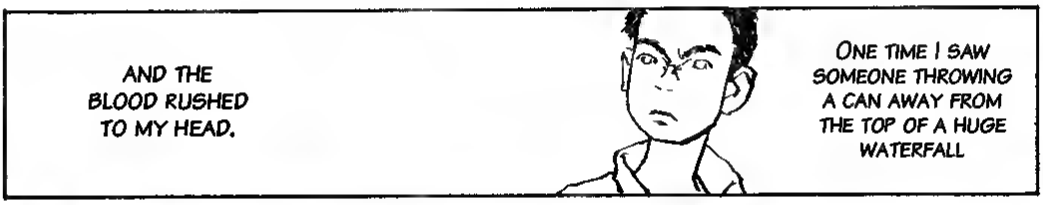

GRANDPA?

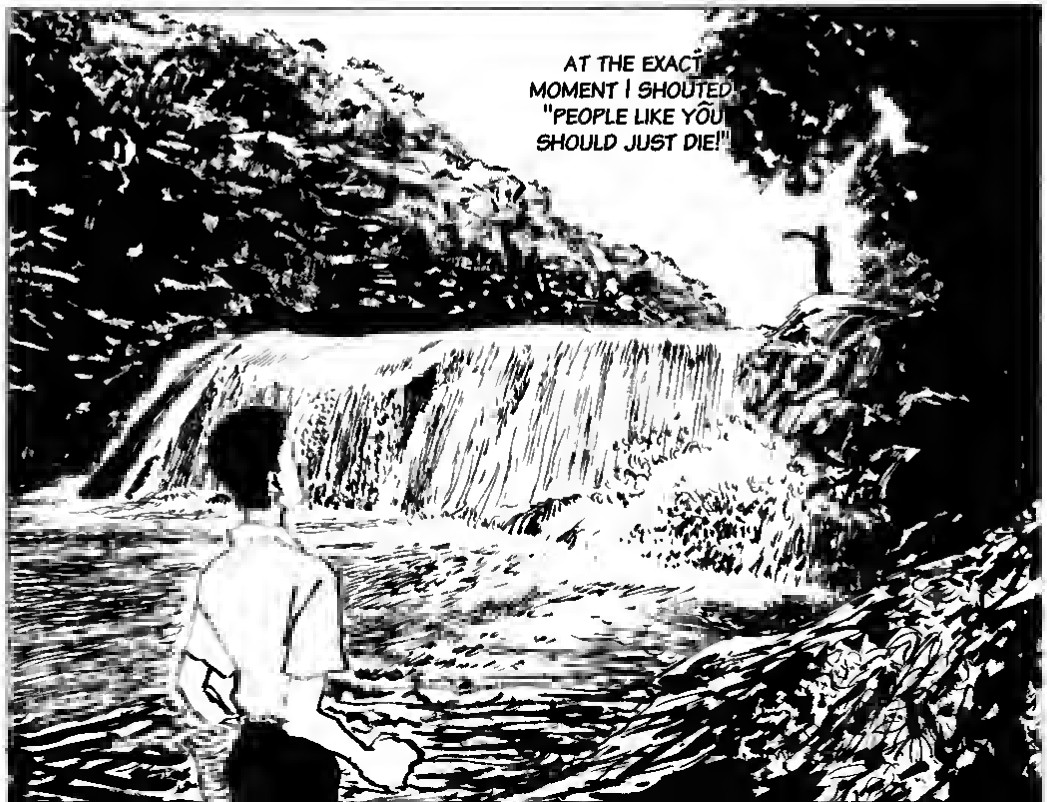

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
'CAUSE THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE MOUNTAIN ARE HAVING A GATHERING, RIGHT?
YES.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE I SHOULD GO BACK USING THE SAME WAY I CAME, RIGHT?

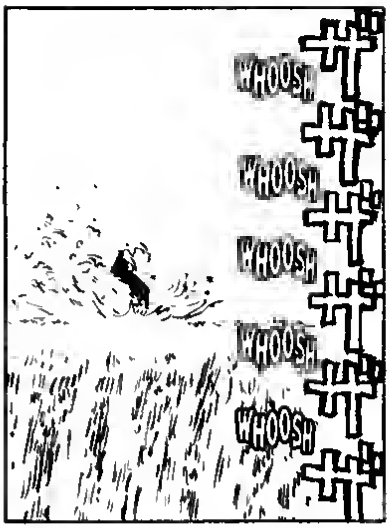

I WONDER WHAT THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE MOUNTAIN IS LIKE.
BUT I CAN'T GET ANY CLOSER, SO THAT'S TOO BAD.
I WANT TO GO TAKE A LOOK, THOUGH.
YOU'VE SEEN IT?
I THINK SO...
WELL, HE HAS A LARGE HAND THAT'S COMPLETELY RED.
I BELIEVE IT HAPPENED ABOUT THIRTY YEARS AGO.

CLANK


THE PEOPLE THAT PASSED THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN ALWAYS LITTERED AS THEY WENT, SO EVERYDAY I WOULD WALK AROUND AND PICK UP THE TRASH.


AND THE BLOOD RUSHED TO MY HEAD.
ONE TIME I SAW SOMEONE THROWING A CAN AWAY FROM THE TOP OF A HUGE WATERFALL


AT THE EXACT MOMENT I SHOUTED "PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOULD JUST DIE!"

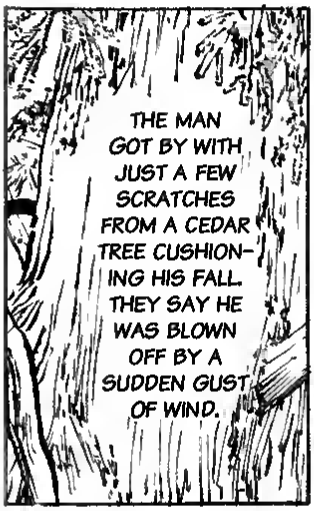

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

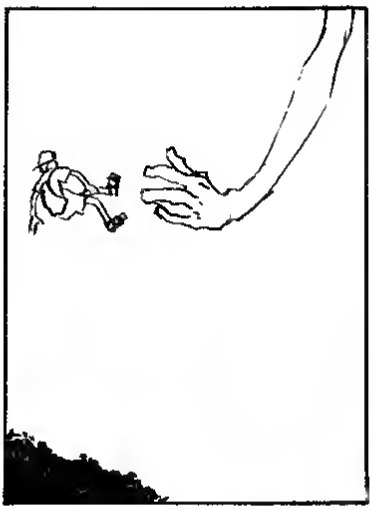
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

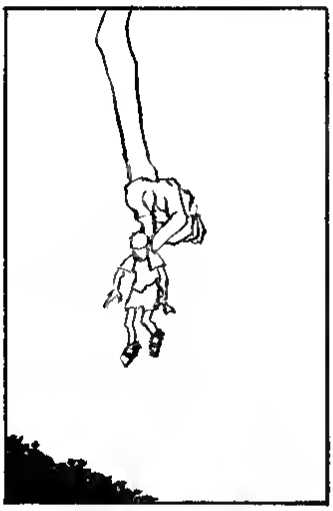
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
THAT PERSON SOMEHOW SURVIVED.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, I SAW A MAN THROW AWAY A CIGARETTE IN A FIELD OF ZEBRA GRASS AND ONCE AGAIN...

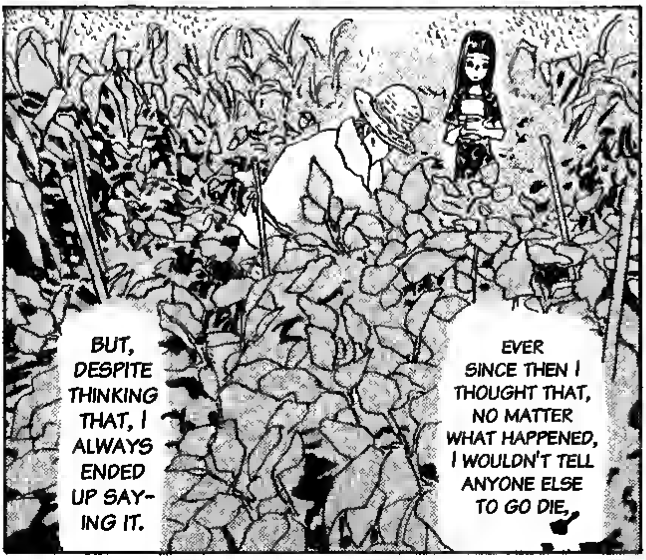
SHOULD JUST DIE, I SHOUTED, IN A FIT OF RAGE.

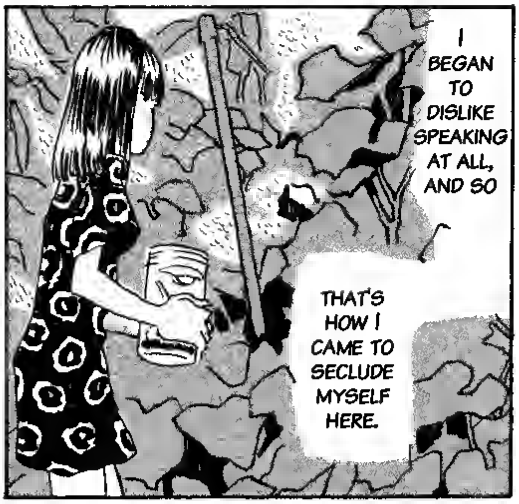

THE MAN GOT BY WITH JUST A FEW SCRATCHES FROM A CEDAR TREE CUSHIONING HIS FALL. THEY SAY HE WAS BLOWN OFF BY A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND.

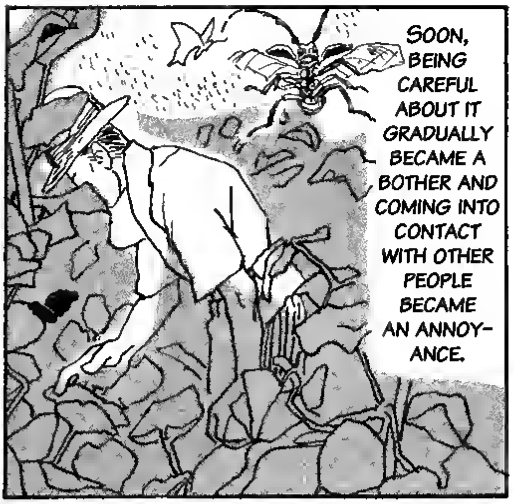


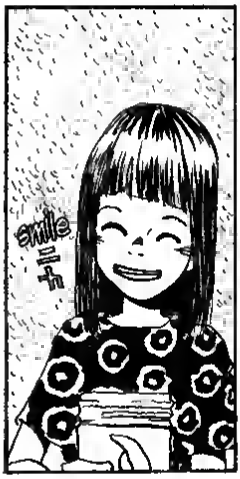


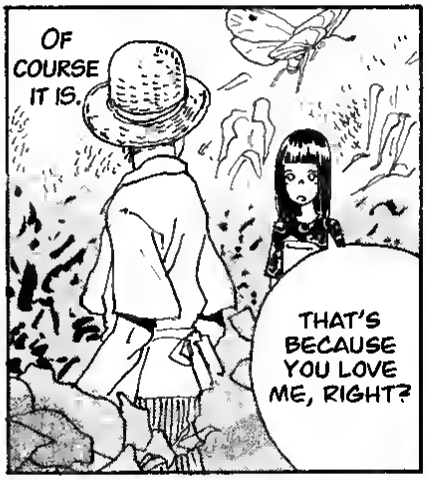
AND EVERYTIME I SAID IT, THE WORDS, "I DIDN'T MEAN IT, DON'T DIE, PLEASE DON'T DIE..." WOULD PASS THROUGH MY LIPS IN DENIAL.

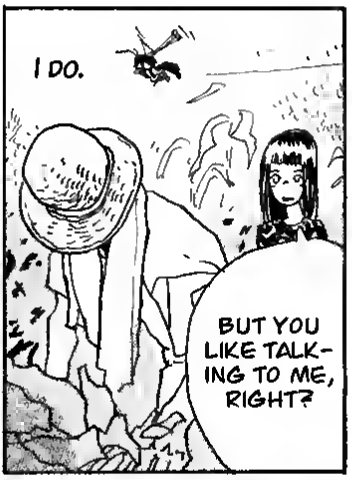

BUT, DESPITE THINKING THAT, I ALWAYS ENDED UP SAYING IT.
EVER SINCE THEN I THOUGHT THAT, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, I WOULDN'T TELL ANYONE ELSE TO GO DIE,

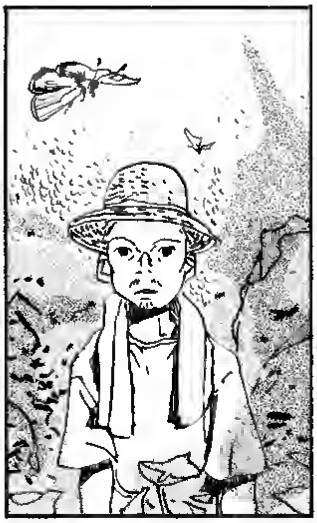

I BEGAN TO DISLIKE SPEAKING AT ALL, AND SO
THAT'S HOW I CAME TO SECLUDE MYSELF HERE.

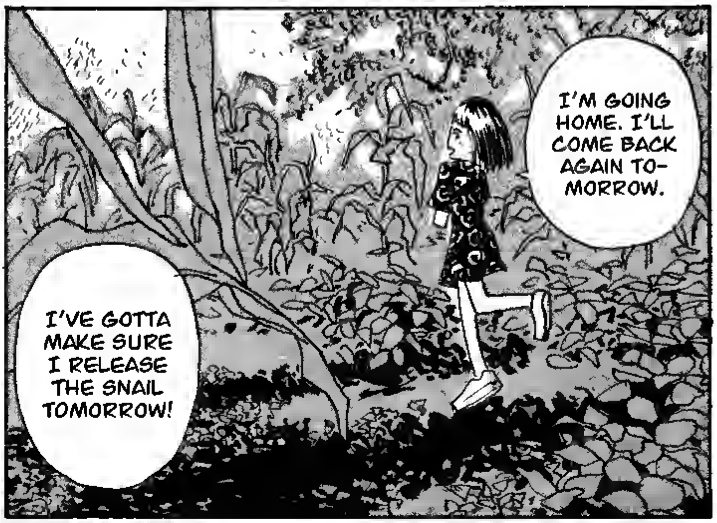

SOON, BEING CAREFUL ABOUT IT GRADUALLY BECAME A BOTHER AND COMING INTO CONTACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE BECAME AN ANNOY-ANCE.

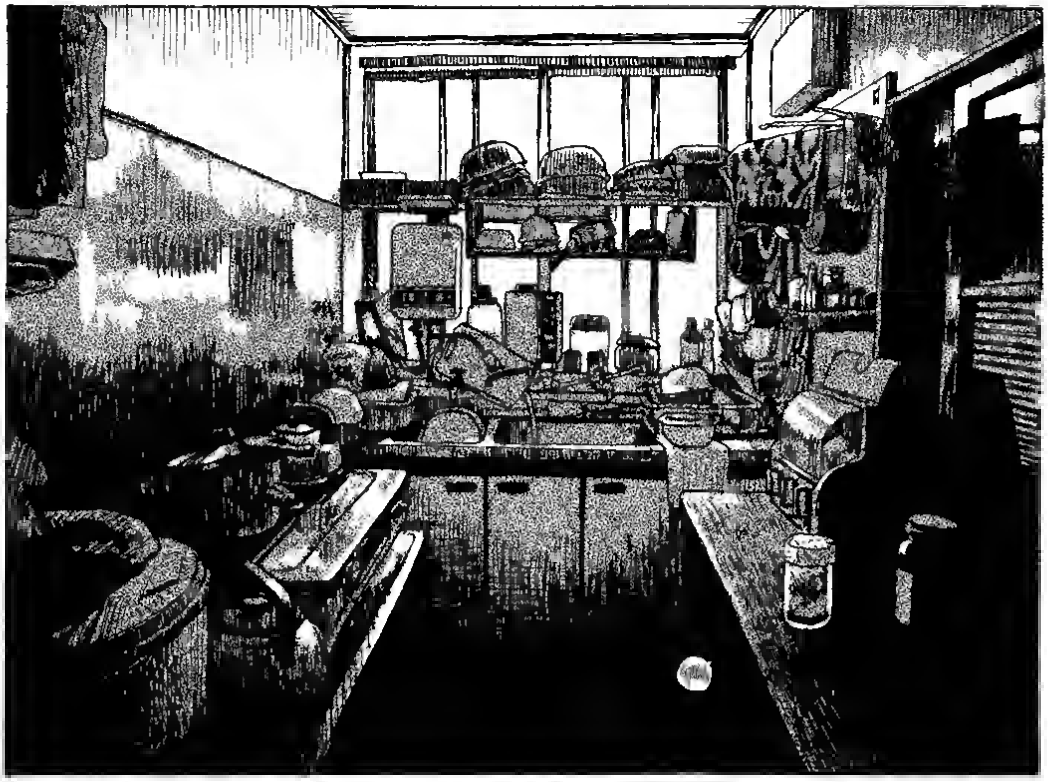

smile


OF COURSE IT IS.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME, RIGHT?

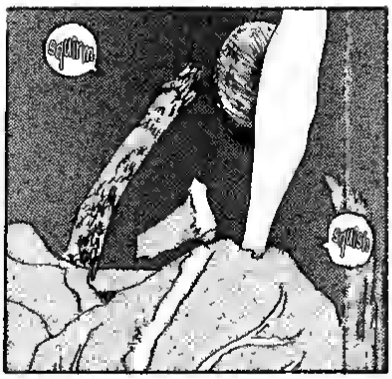

I DO.
BUT YOU LIKE TALK-ING TO ME, RIGHT?

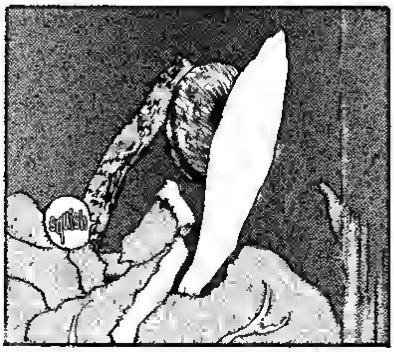



I'M GOING HOME. I'LL COME BACK AGAIN TO-MORROW.
I'VE GOTTA MAKE SURE I RELEASE THE SNAIL TOMORROW!



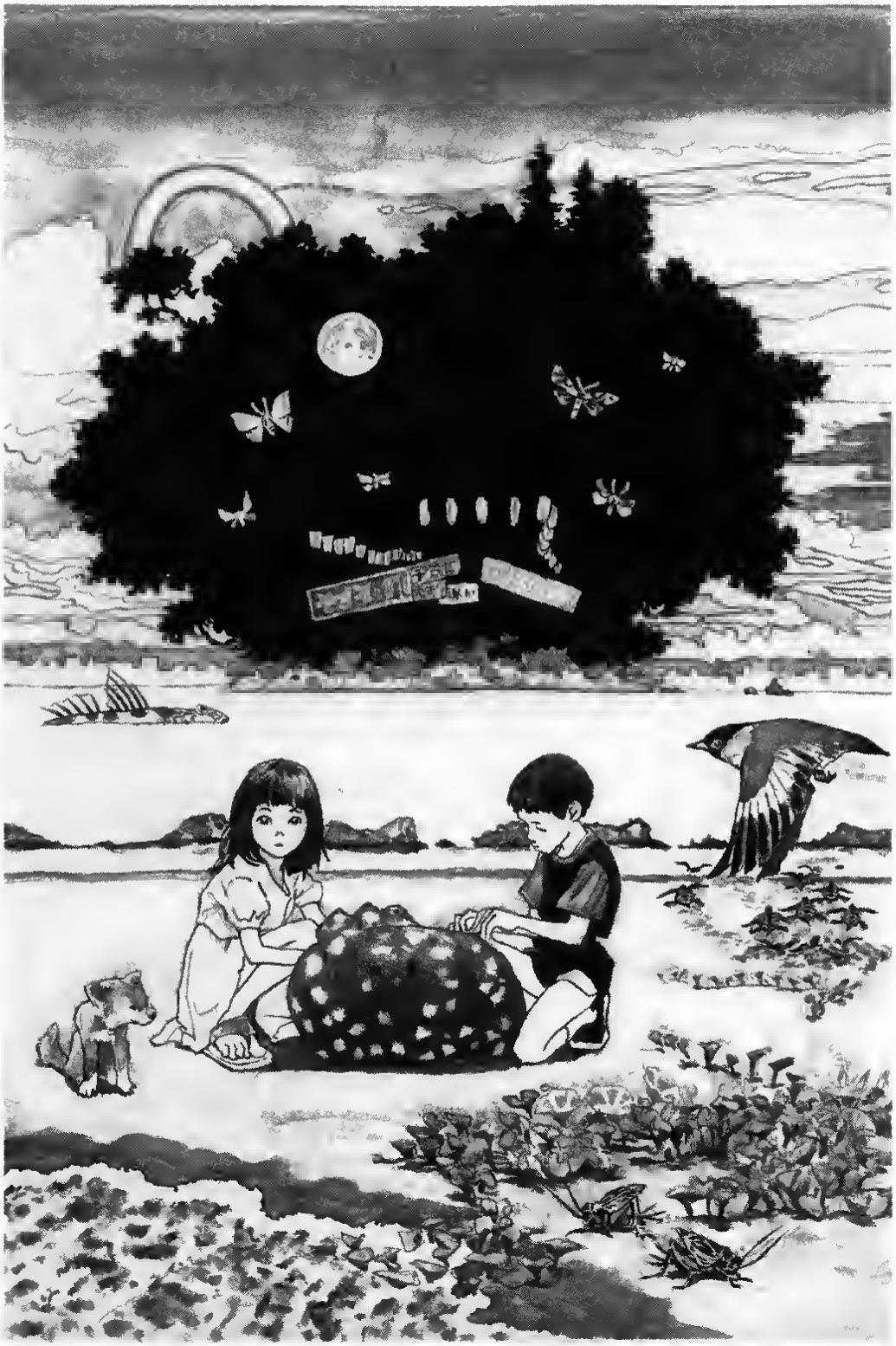
I WONDER IF SHE'LL REACH HOME BEFORE IT COMES POURING DOWN.


splitting
splitting


splitting

D A I S U K E I G A R A S H I

p r e s e n t s



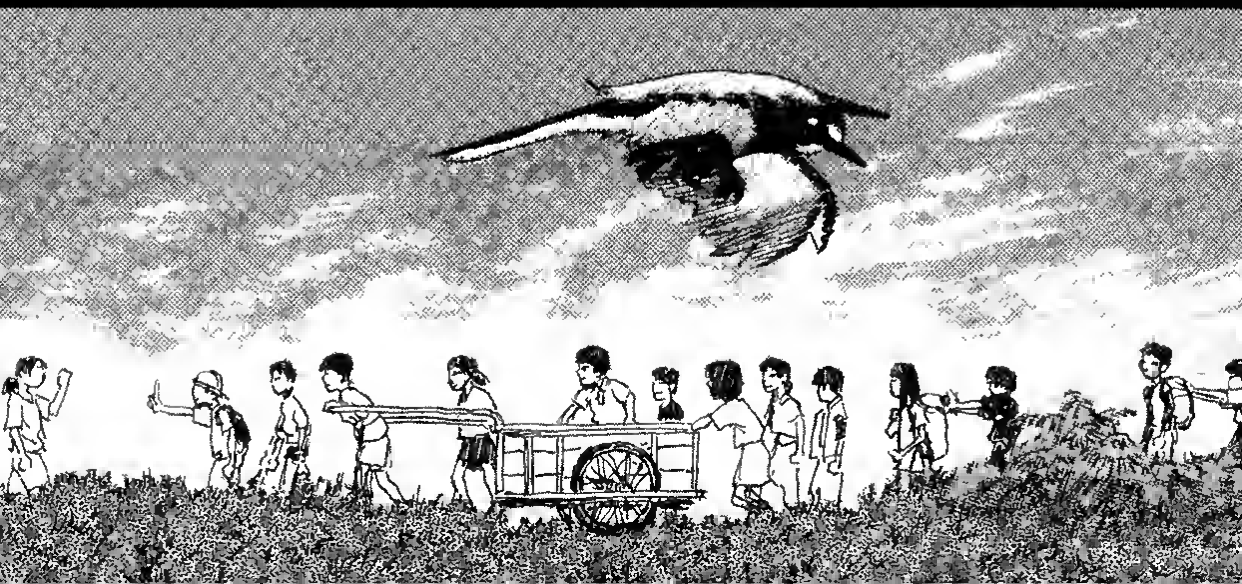
Something of an afterword

The word "wind" (風 kaze) is in the term "scenery" (風景 fuukei.)
The wind always moves, never stopping for a moment.
Even if I seek to savor the time or light I enjoy from a favorite place of mine, I'll never see the same scenery twice.
In its place I'll unexpectedly encounter something else.

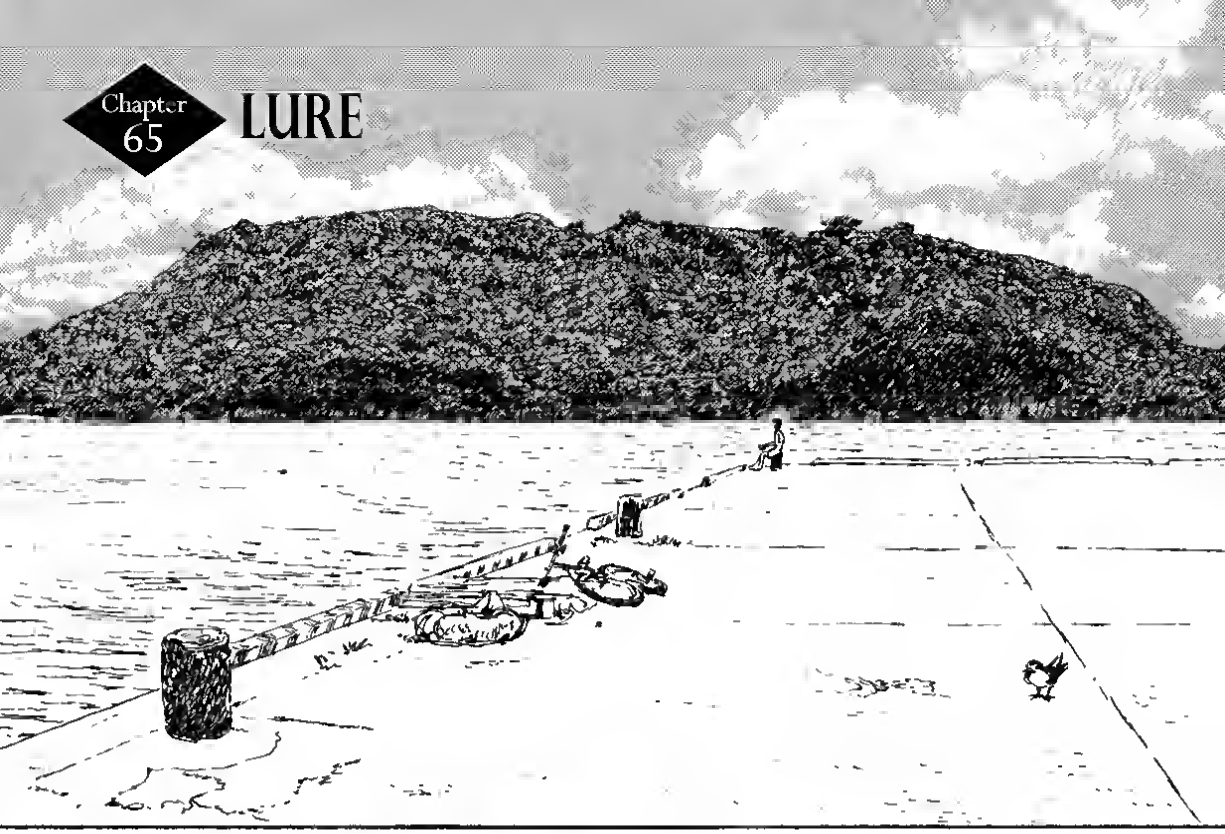
It would be a waste to enjoy it all by myself so I wanted to experience it with others as well somehow.
It was with that in mind while hammering away through trial and error that this came into form.

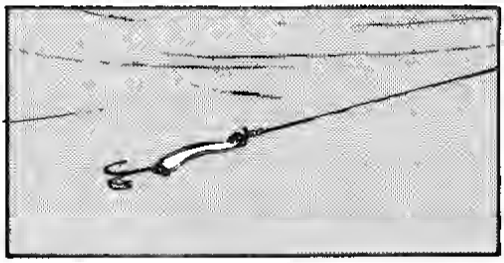
Try standing still in a place that strikes your fancy for a few minutes.
It doesn't matter where as long as you keep a sense of wonder.
Something will happen for sure.

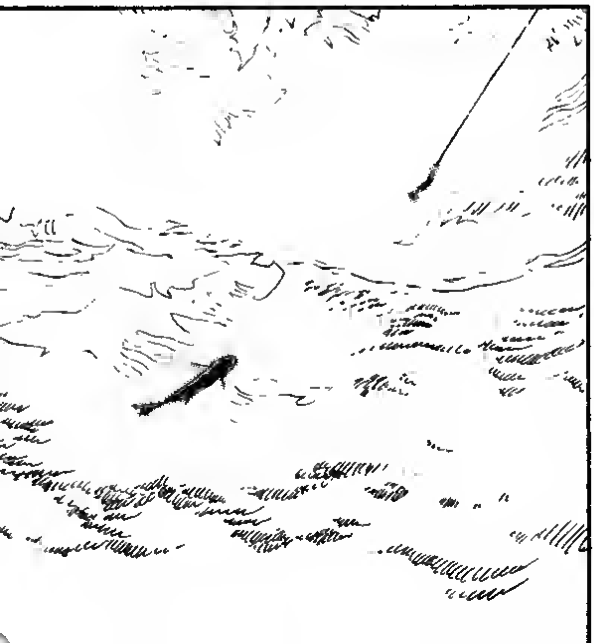
Spring 2004 Daisuke Igarashi

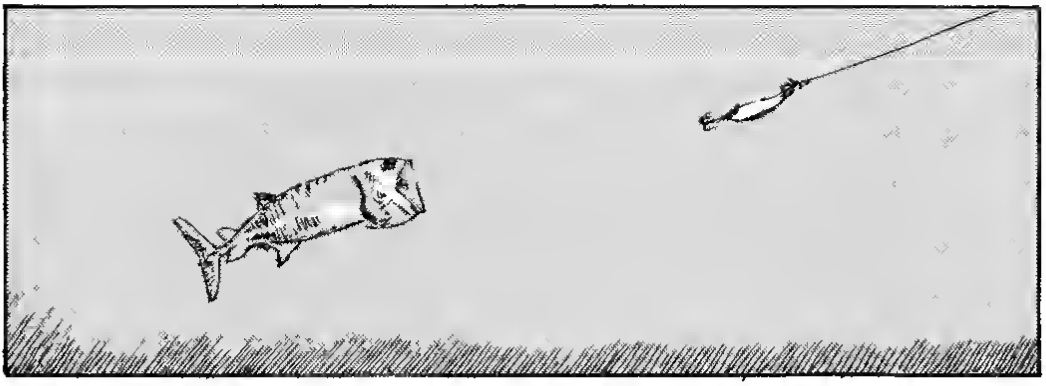


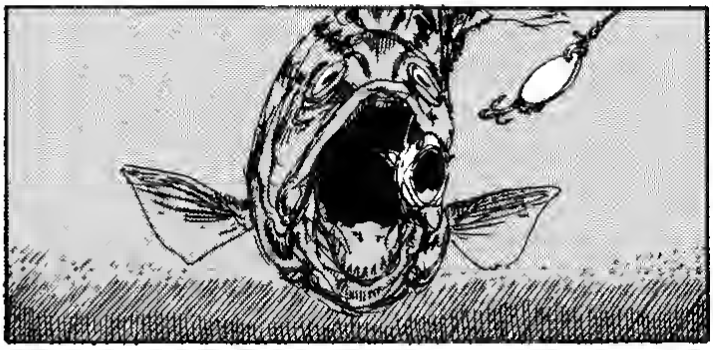
Chapter 65 LURE

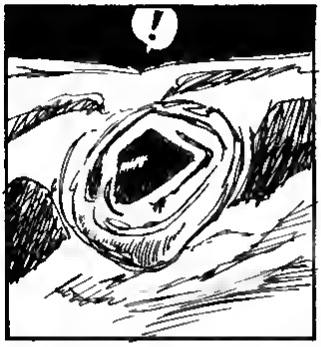


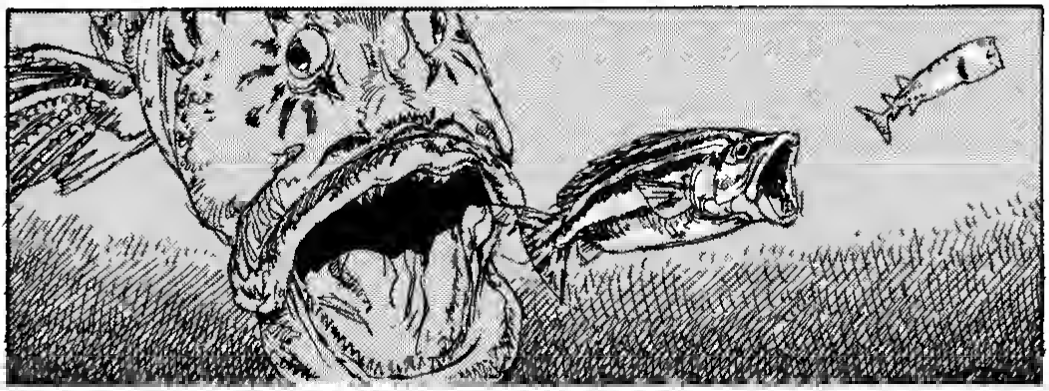


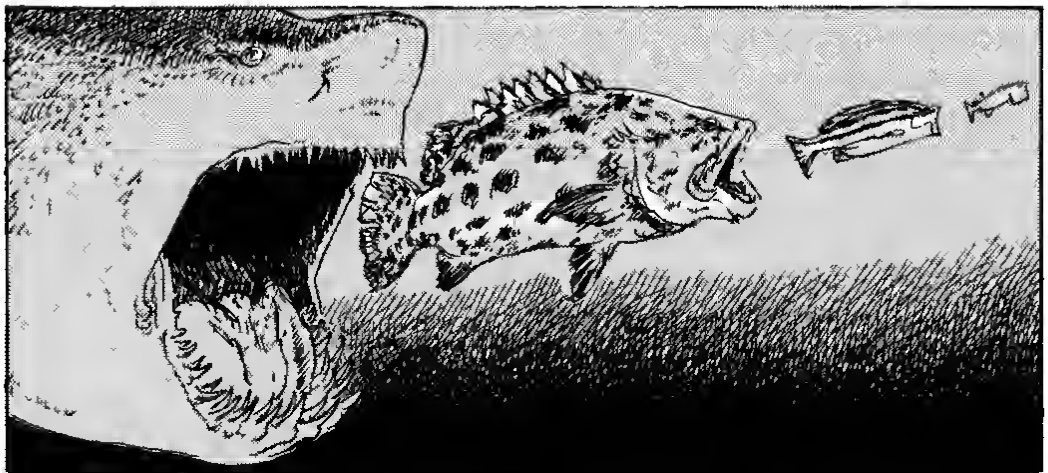


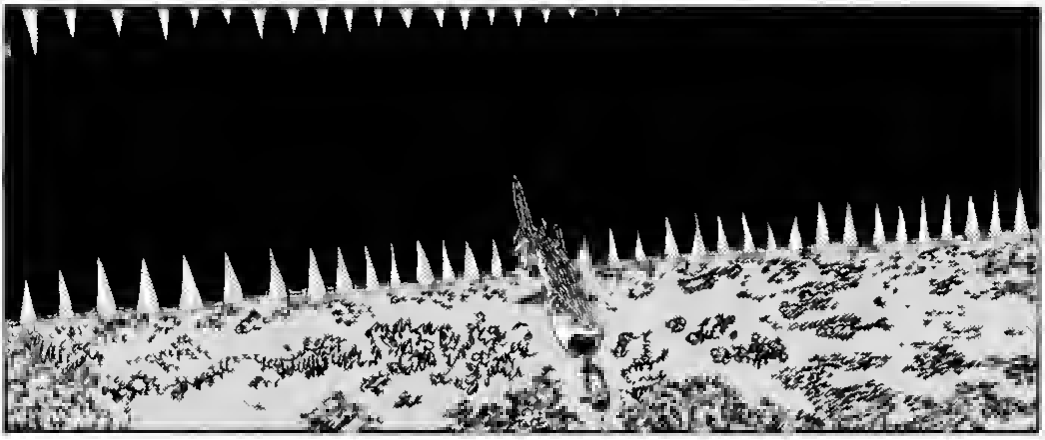




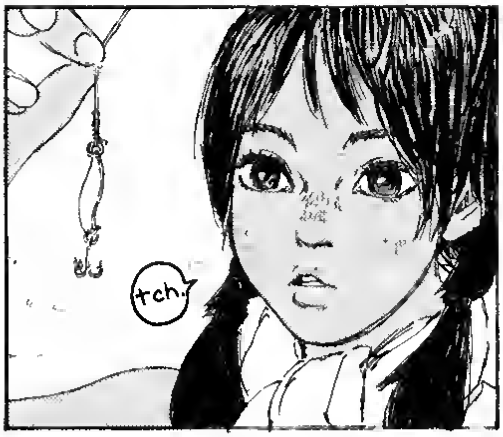


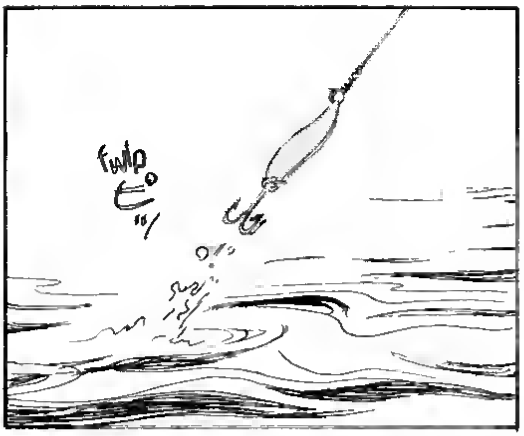


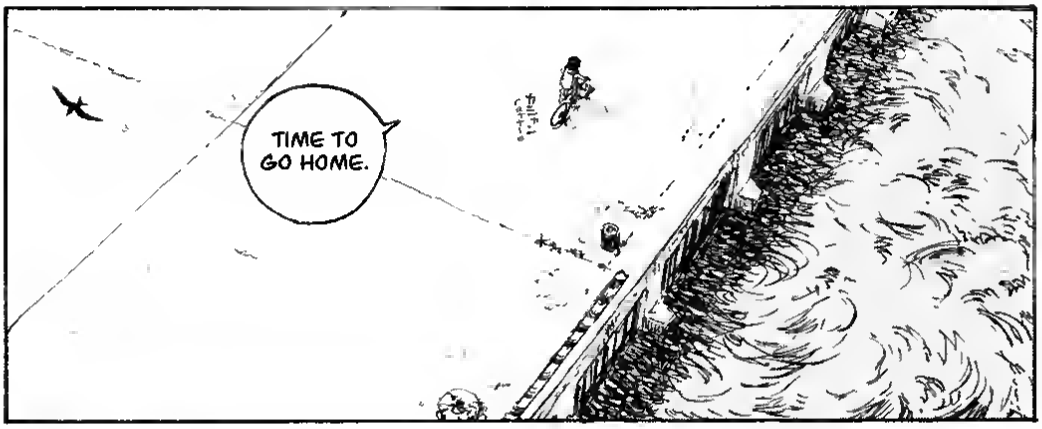


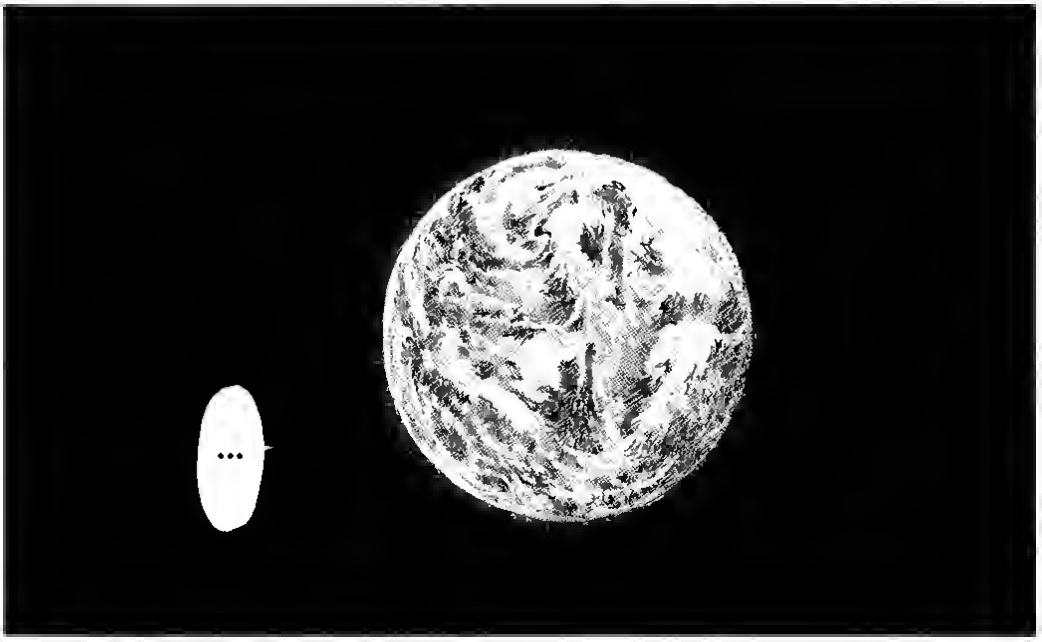


ズ" RUMBLE
ズ" RUMBLE
ズズ" RUMBLE
ズズ" RUMBLE
ズズ" RUMBLE
ズズ" RUMBLE
ズ" RUMBLE...
ズ...


tch.


fwip


TIME TO GO HOME.


...

本書は、１９９６年刊「はなしっぱなし」第２巻と第３巻（講談社/アフタヌーンKCデラックス）を再構成し、描き下ろしの第４５話を加えた新装版です。

九龍コミックス

はなしっぱなし（下）

二〇〇四年　四　月三〇日　初版発行
二〇〇七年　一二月三〇日　5刷発行

著　者……五十嵐大介
装　幀……坂野弘美
発行者……若森繁男
発行所……株式会社河出書房新社
東京都渋谷区千駄ヶ谷二―三二―二
電話〇三―三四〇四―一二〇一【営業】
〇三―三四〇四―八六一一【編集】
http://www.kawade.co.jp/

印刷・製本……中央精版印刷株式会社

©2004 Printed in Japan
落丁・乱丁本はお取り替えいたします

ISBN978-4-309-72841-4